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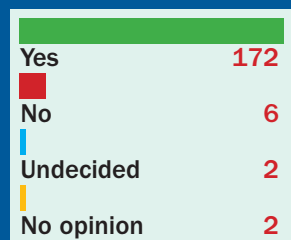
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POLL RESULTS

Should periodic drug testing be made mandatory for all law enforcement personnel?



Sunday, January 26, 2014

INSIDE

LOCAL



Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio is officially installed.

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NATION



A man opens fire at a shopping mall in Baltimore, killing two.

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WORLD



A large crowd attacks a government building in Ukraine's capital.

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CNMI govt, Jorgensen reach deal on attorney's fees. PAGE 3
Female bicyclist hurt after being hit by pickup truck. PAGE 5

Inos: No work hour cuts in 2014

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



Inos

Two days before he was to leave for Hawaii to meet with U.S. Pacific Command officials, Gov. Eloy S. Inos said he does not foresee work hour cuts for fiscal year 2014. However, he continues to urge belt-tightening and ways to generate additional revenues to come up with at least \$12 million more to meet new or expanded government obligations on top of the \$123.4 million already previously budgeted.

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IN TWO-TERM CHAMBER PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

'We should not deny them improved status'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Chamber installs 2014 board of directors

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex A. Sablan reiterated Saturday night that granting permanent or improved status to long-term legal foreign national workers in the CNMI is "the right thing to do" while at the same time recognizing concerted efforts toward educating and training U.S. workers now that the tourism industry is on a two-year rebound "and headed for bigger and

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Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2012 Businessperson of the Year awardee Marcia E. Ayuyu of RJ Corp. accepts the 2013 Businessperson of the Year award on behalf of Bank of Guam vice president/CNMI regional manager Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane on Saturday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

BOG's Tomokane is SCC Businessperson of the Year

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Bank of Guam vice president/CNMI regional manager Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane bagged on Saturday night the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's coveted 2013 Businessperson of the Year award, which honors businesspersons for their community involvement and contributions, business longevity, support for the local workforce, and participation in Chamber activities.



Tomokane

Tomokane, however, was off-island so she couldn't personally accept the Chamber's signature annual award that started in 1996.

Accepting the award on Tomokane's behalf was one of the two recipients of the Chamber's 2012 Businessperson of the Year award, Marcia E. Ayuyu of RJ Corp.

"I am very happy to accept the award on her behalf. I want to thank all of you for voting for her. She's a great person. ...I

See BOG on Page 4

Liban is state spelling bee champ

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A 10-year-old fifth grader from San Vicente Elementary School emerged as this year's big winner of the Public School System State Spelling Bee after besting 31 other top spellers from public schools.

Holly Sarah Liban sealed her victory after she correctly spelled the winning

word "remora" during the 33rd round of the competition, held Saturday at Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Liban's final opponent in the nerve-racking head-to-head battle was Marian Miranda of Garapan Elementary School.

Miranda's incorrectly spelled the word "aventurine" in the final round to land her in the second top spot. She, together with third placer AJ Samonte, will join Liban at the upcoming regional spelling bee in Guam where the champion will be sent to the national spelling bee in Washington, D.C.

"I am very happy and excited to go to Guam!" Liban told *Saipan Tribune* after the competition, disclosing that this will

See LIBAN on Page 4



Public School System state spelling bee champion Holly Sarah Liban, center, poses with her family after Saturday's competition at the Multi-Purpose Center. Liban, a fifth grader from San Vicente Elementary School, will compete in the upcoming regional spelling bee contest in Guam.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Local

Kim-Tenorio inspires young mothers to strive for success

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio took a different approach in her judicial address on Friday by telling her life story as a teen mother in a bid to inspire young moms to persevere and strive for success.

Instead of focusing on judicial issues that newly sworn judges normally do at their investiture, Kim-Tenorio addressed teenage mothers who feel “they have hit a dead end in the path of life.”

“There is no ‘right’ path or just ‘one’ road to success. There are many paths that only require one thing: determination,” said Kim-Tenorio in her emotional remarks during the judicial investiture ceremony held in the CNMI Supreme Court.

She pointed out that there is a path to becoming a judge, which includes completing high school, going to college, going to law school, taking the bar exam, being a lawyer, and so on.

Kim-Tenorio said that before she did all of that, she got pregnant at the age of 17 and became a teenage mother.

“You can imagine what my Asian parents thought, that it was the end of the world. You know what I’m talking about. Others did too. Life was over; I guess that was the message,” she said.

She recalled that her parents waited for her son to be born, then told her to leave the island, see the world, and get a college education.

“But clearly, it wasn’t that simple. There was now an infant that was part of the equation,” Kim-Tenorio said, add-



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Unified Courts of Guam Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III presents a Judiciary Resolution to Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio during the Judicial Investiture Ceremony held at the CNMI Supreme Court on Friday.

ing that along with lots of guts, fear, and prayer, she left for college with her son.

She said she left and felt as though she cried for the next four years.

“I cried every time I dropped my son off to day care, because he cried. I cried most nights when I had to stay up late to study because I had to feed my son first, bathe him, and make sure he was in bed and perform all the other motherly duties before I had time to devote to school,” she said.

Kim-Tenorio remembered that she cried most because while she was doing this, other college students were partying and truly experiencing the college life.

The judge said she cried four years later when she re-

ceived her bachelor’s degree, this time with tears of joy.

“I felt like life really did not end when I became a teenage mom. I felt stronger. I felt like I could conquer law school,” she said.

Kim-Tenorio said she is truly blessed to have parents who never gave up on her as she certainly tested their love and patience.

“So my message to teenage mothers out there is when you take a wrong turn in life, don’t think you must continue on that path. Even worse, don’t think you are stuck on that path,” she added.

Kim-Tenorio thanked her children and her husband, Perry John Tenorio, for supporting her.

As she was concluding her

speech, Kim-Tenorio was overcome with emotion as she expressed her wish that her two older sons, Air Force Airman Justis Tenorio and Army specialist Sunho Tenorio, were there to attend the ceremony.

“But as I protect the Constitution in my judicial capacity, they are defending it in the most honorable way, by protecting your lives and mine and fighting for our freedom. Thank you both and all our service men and women for your service,” said Kim-Tenorio.

Many guests, including U.S. District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, were seen wiping their tears.

Kim-Tenorio’s speech was received with thunderous applause by judges, justices, court

staff and guests that filled the courtroom and the lobby.

In the first part of her address, Kim-Tenorio thanked Gov. Eloys Inos, whom she called “a true mentor and a great leader to follow” for nominating her to serve on the bench. She also expressed appreciation for the support given her by the Senate, the CNMI Bar Association, judges, and justices.

Inos administered the oath of office.

In his remarks, Inos said that, in nominating Kim-Tenorio, he was caught in a bittersweet situation as she was his legal counsel since he became lieutenant governor in 2009 and in his current capacity as governor.

Nonetheless, Inos said he is proud to have nominated her because along with her educational credentials, she has gained experience in private practice, and as counsel in the legislative and executive branches.

“Today, she comes full circle on this journey with the judicial branch. And while my office lost a tremendous asset, I take comfort knowing she will be an asset to the greater Commonwealth,” the governor said.

In his welcome remarks, CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro said Kim-Tenorio’s ascension to the bench completes the fifth judge position left vacant by associate judge and now Associate Justice Perry Inos 10 months ago.

“Teresa’s ascension to the bench underscores our leaders’ acknowledgment of the fact that women can also be part of the leadership in our government,” said Castro, citing that

Kim-Tenorio is the third female jurist to be sworn in since the CNMI decided to become a U.S. Commonwealth.

In his closing remarks, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja said the Judiciary is behind Kim-Tenorio in ensuring that she has all the necessary tools at her disposal.

“As a team, we will all continue to do as we always have done...ensure that justice prevails and the rule of law is upheld,” Naraja said. “Your Honor, never forget the importance of neutrality and always remember to remain calm and civil at all times on the bench.”

At the ceremony, former first lady Sophia P. Tenorio and Kim-Tenorio’s mother, Jin Soon Kim, were tasked with the investiture of the judicial robe. Former governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Kim-Tenorio’s father, Yong Chan Kim, presented the gavel. Perry John P. Tenorio and children Pedro and Sunjoon presented the family Bible.

Members of the Marianas High School’s Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club received loud applause with their musical selection.

Among the guests were Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, current and former CNMI judges and justice, mayors, lawmakers, Cabinet members, District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, Unified Court of Guam Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, Unified Courts of Guam Associate Judge Arthur R. Barcinas, and Circuit Judge Helen Shores Lee of the 10th Judicial Circuit of Alabama.

See more
photos on
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A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
10th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival
Feb. 15-16, 2014

The 10th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 15-16, 2014, is offering twice the

fun this year with the addition of the **14th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim** on the same weekend.

The event will be held at Kammer Beach within walking distance of the seaport and downtown San Jose.

The celebration honors *donni sali*, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the island. Activities will again include cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances, and Hapi the Clown. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races, join numerous sports activities (including



beach volleyball and dragon boat races), or join the *donni sali* eating competition, itself.

The 14th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim will be held on Feb. 15, 2014. Applications are available under the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail vborja@mymarianas.com.



CNMI govt, Jorgensen reach deal on attorney's fees

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI government and Betty Johnson's original counsel, Bruce Jorgensen, have reached an agreement on the latter's petition for attorney's fees and costs.

There is a strong possibility that the evidentiary hearing in Johnson's other counsels' petitions for attorneys' fees and costs, currently set for Friday, Jan. 31, will not push through as settlement talks between the CNMI government and Johnson's other counsels are making progress.

According to the minutes of a telephone status conference on Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood expressed concerns regarding Jorgensen's most recent application for attorneys' fees.

Attorney Mitchell F. Thompson, who is representing Jorgensen, disclosed that Jorgensen and the CNMI government had reached a settlement as of late Wednesday, and that he is now preparing the paperwork for review and approval.

Assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan, counsel for the

CNMI government, confirmed that an agreement was reached with Jorgensen.

Details of that agreement were not divulged.

As for Johnson's local counsel, Stephen C. Woodruff, Woodruff disclosed that the CNMI government made him a counteroffer and that the government is awaiting his response.

Woodruff hopes to settle before the evidentiary hearing.

On Johnson's other counsel Timothy Lord's petition, Sablan told the court that the CNMI government has received Lord's proposal, which she will review and respond.

Pertaining to the petition of Johnson's Hawaii-based counsel, Bronster Hoshibata law firm, Margery Bronster told the court last week that they and the CNMI government have continued to pursue agreement on their individual petitions. Bronster said they are hopeful it will be successful.

Bronster recently disclosed to the court that Johnson's counsels have failed to come up with a unified petition for attorneys' fees and costs by last Wednesday's deadline.

She informed the court that

despite diligent effort and the indefatigable assistance of Hawaii Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris as a mediator, their law firm has been unable to reach an agreement on a fair and reasonable allocation of fees between itself and co-class counsels Jorgensen, Woodruff, and Lord.

Worse, Bronster disclosed that Jorgensen's invoices are "virtually incomprehensible and too vague and cryptic to enable any reasoned judgment as to the legitimate work, if any, the might effect."

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the parties to advise the court at their next telephonic status conference on Jan. 28 whether they were able to reach final settlement.

On Thursday, Jorgensen filed a "unified statement" in support of his fee petition, saying he has conveyed to his co-counsel, Lord, that for purposes of facilitating compromise, he is amenable to a 7 percent cut in hours and fees, which in turn would establish his total billable hours as 3,678.7 hours and total fees as \$1,195,580.10. Jorgensen's initial request was at least \$18.6 million.

Bronster recommended that the only way to measure Jorgensen's contribution in the case is by giving him 10 percent of the total attorney's fees that the court determines are reasonable.

She also recommended awarding Woodruff \$400,000 for his work.

With respect to Lord, Bron-

ster said their law firm could not come to an agreement with Lord because by the time they entered this case, Lord had

Neal removed as chief prosecutor—sources

Shelli Neal has been replaced as chief prosecutor of the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division, according to several independent sources.

The sources disclosed that Attorney General Joey San Nicolas informed Neal on Friday that she is no longer the chief prosecutor. It is not clear yet who is the new chief prosecutor or acting chief prosecutor.

Saipan Tribune repeatedly con-

ceased participating in the case.

Bronster Hoshibata is seeking \$17.5 million; Lord is asking for either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 mil-

tacted San Nicolas yesterday, but he was not answering his phone. He also did not reply to text messages asking for comment about Neal's replacement.

OAG spokesperson Carla Torres said she is not aware about the development.

Saipan Tribune also contacted Neal but she did not comment.

Neal appeared as counsel for the CNMI government before Superior Court Associate Judge

lion; and Woodruff is requesting for \$2.9 million.

Under the settlement agreement, the CNMI government will shoulder the attorneys' fees and costs of Johnson's counsels upon the court's approval.

Joseph N. Camacho on Friday for a motion hearing in connection with the case against Joseph Crisostomo, who is facing murder and kidnapping charges over the killing of bartender Emerita Romero.

San Nicolas appointed Neal as chief prosecutor in April 2013. The then chief prosecutor, Peter Prestley, was assigned to the OAG's Civil Division. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Ex-cop Richards surrenders

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former police officer Florencio Q. Richards surrendered to the U.S. Marshal Service on Friday afternoon after learning of an arrest warrant the federal court issued against him.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued the arrest warrant on Thursday after the U.S. Probation Office moved to revoke Richards' supervised release for allegedly using methamphetamine or "ice" again and committing other violations of the terms and conditions of his probation.

At 4:15pm on Friday, attorney Michael Evangelista was seen at federal court waiting for the surrender of his client, Richards.

Richards shortly came and was served with the arrest warrant. He remains in jail until a hearing for today, Monday, in federal court.

Richards has been on three years of supervised probation since Feb. 20, 2013, after serving a 12-month prison term for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice," distribution of "ice," and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

According to U.S. Probation Officer Margarita Wonenberg, Richards used "ice" on Dec. 30, 2013, failed to report to a probation officer, failed to follow the instructions of the probation officer, and failed to participate in a substance abuse treatment program.

Wonenberg said Richards tested presumptive positive for

"ice" during a random drug test on Dec. 31, 2013, and, when confronted about the results, admitted using the drug a day before.

The probation officer noted that this was Richards' fourth positive drug test within a one-year period.

In August 2011, the federal court imposed a 24-month prison term on Richards for distributing "ice" when he was still an active officer.

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NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2014, at 10:00 A.M. at the DCRM Office located, Tekken Street, Susupe

AGENDA

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call

PERMIT APPLICATION

- SEA TOUCH, LLC - Sharks & Ray Marine Park CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2013-X-070
- Permit Application Summary
 - Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
 - Permit Application Status

OTHER MATTERS

ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/S/ FRANCES A. CASTRO
DIRECTOR, DCRM

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Navy awards \$12M contract for housing operations

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded a \$12,960,577.00 firm-fixed price contract to Wolf Creek Federal Services, Inc. (small business—Anchorage, Alaska) for Navy housing operations, maintenance and change of occupancy maintenance services at Naval Base Guam and Andersen Air Force Base, Commander, Joint

Region Marianas.

The work to be performed includes the management of housing operations, the maintenance and repair of family housing units, unaccompanied housing units and provides any services, maintenance and change of occupancy maintenance in both vacant and occupied units. Sixty percent of the work will be performed in Santa Rita, Guam

BOG

From Page 1

know she deserves to receive this award,” Ayuyu said of Tomokane at the awards ceremony held in the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

The ceremony drew not only businesspersons but also government officials including Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, and Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart, among others.

Tomokane has over 30 years of experience in banking operation and management, including commercial, real estate mortgage and consumer lending. She also has over 10 years of experience in government finance environment, inclusive of budgeting, accounting, investment and treasury.

She started her career in 1973 at Bank of America-Saipan, before working for the first time at Bank of Guam on Saipan in 1980. She worked at Commonwealth Bank in 1983.

From 1984 to 1994, Tomokane worked at the CNMI De-

partment of Finance, starting as an executive/administrative assistant until she became the CNMI treasurer.

In 1994, she went back to Bank of Guam, this time as assistant vice president/branch operation manager. A year later, she became vice president/branch manager. In 2003, she became vice president/CNMI regional manager, a position she still holds today.

Tomokane bested four other 2013 nominees for the 2013 businessperson of the year award, including Nick Nishikawa of Hyatt Regency Saipan; John Baldwin of Bridge Capital LLC; Alex Youn of Stars Sands Plaza; and Guy Pudney of Marianas Pacific Distributors.

Three other nominees earlier declined nominations.

All the nominees were nominated by the Chamber's general membership. Past businesspersons of the year—not the board of directors—select the winner.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private sector business organization in the CNMI. It works to promote and protect the business, economic and civic interests, and the general health and welfare, of the islands.

erage of \$30 million spending every quarter.

As in previous years and quarters, government utility and medical referral spending exceeds appropriations. The governor said there may be shortfall again in these areas.

Moreover, the governor said he is now putting together a supplemental budget request to the Legislature. This covers the minimum \$12 million needed to address government health and life insurance plus the Retirement Settlement Fund obligations.

“We’re making a lot of progress. Good progress,” he said.

This mostly comes from an increase in gross receipts taxes, tied to a steadily climbing tourist arrival.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, meanwhile, said they have yet to finalize the report on the latest tax amnesty program, including the total back taxes settled and the number of those who came forward to avail of the program.

The governor said the tax amnesty program, especially when another one is offered, will help generate additional revenues for the year.

LIBAN

From Page 1

be her second time to go to the Guam regional contest. She finished Top 4 last year.

This year's big winner is the daughter of Lorna and Marshall Liban. A consistent academic achiever, the young Liban was San Vicente School's spelling bee champion last year.

Before facing her opponents in Saturday's competition, Liban shared her secret: “I just mostly studied everyday...but before the competition, I made sure I am relaxed and so was my mind.”

If she landed Top 4 in last year's regional competition

and forty percent will be performed in Yigo, Guam. Work is expected to be completed in

in Guam, Liban is determined to bag the championship this time and be at the nationals this year. She vowed to better prepare this time to make this happen for her.

Liban said her victory is not all hers. “God helped me to win this competition.” She also credited the valuable help of her brother, Mark Anthony Liban, who helped her prepare.

For the second best speller, Miranda, she said there's nothing more satisfying than to see the fruits of her hard labor. Though she was nervous the whole time, Miranda is happy that she was able to regain and maintain her confidence up to the end. She is the daughter of Rafael and Marina Miranda.

October 2014.

This contract was competitively procured via the Federal

Like the champion, the young Miranda aims to be at the national spelling bee.

According to Bobby Cruz, PSS English Language program coordinator and overall in charge of the competition, there were a total of 32 participants in this year's competition. These are all top spellers in the public school's third to eighth grade level.

2014 marks the second year of the PSS State Spelling Bee.

Cruz said the Top 3 winners—Liban, Miranda, and Samonte—are the official representatives of PSS in the regional competition slated on March 8 in Guam.

For Lynette Villagomez, Territories and Freely Associated

Business Opportunities Online Website with three proposals received. *(USN)*

States education grant program director of PSS, the outstanding performance demonstrated by the top winners shows how committed they are to do well at the regional event.

“We’re very pleased with the performance of our students. I am confident that they will make us proud in the Guam competition. They worked really hard and I have no doubt that it can be done,” said Villagomez.

Judges at Saturday's spelling bee included Tyler Collins, Frank Borja, and Brandon Decker. SSSH principal Jonathan Cabrera served as the competition's pronouncer while Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas served as the event's master of ceremony.

STATUS

From Page 1

brighter opportunities.”

At the installation dinner for the Chamber's 2014 board of directors, Sablan said that after decades of living in and contributing to the CNMI, “we should not deny them their opportunity.”

Sablan was referring to foreign national workers who would be forced to exit the CNMI en masse if the transitional Commonwealth-only worker program is not extended beyond Dec. 31, 2014.

“Now, after decades contributing, many raising families, possibly working alongside us and growing up side by side with many of our own children, haven't foreign national workers that have lived here a decade or more earned a right to achieve that possible American dream under U.S. immigration law that encompasses the 50 states and most of the insular territories?” Sablan asked in his address as he begins his second term as president of the largest private business organization in the CNMI.

Many in the crowd inside the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan were seen nodding in agreement.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), also in the crowd, has made sure that national immigration reform bills in Congress include a provision granting a pathway to improved status for long-term legal aliens in the CNMI.

A group calling themselves the NMD Corp. has been opposed to the CNMI-specific provisions of S. 744 and H.R. 15, each granting a pathway to citizenship for some 11 million undocumented aliens in the United States.

In his address, Alex Sablan pointed to his father's generation that voted almost 40 years ago to join the United States political and democratic family with all its “amazing attributes and yes, possible consequences.”

“We recognize that the CNMI Labor public policy was one of immigration for employment only and not migration but, as callous and controversial as this may sound, when we lost that most important privilege, as agreed upon in our Covenant agreement, so too did we lose the privilege to manage that specific aspect of our public labor policy,” he said.

‘Workforce development’

While pushing for improved status for long-term foreign workers, Sablan also recognized efforts toward “a truly viable workforce development policy” that's a product of ongoing collaboration among agencies and their leaders including CNMI Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero, the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, the Chamber, and other public and private entities.

Sablan also thanked the delegate, Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider for pursuing the request to extend the transitional CW program by five or up to end-2019.

The CNMI still doesn't have enough U.S. worker populace to meet even the current economic activity, “let alone the projected potential increase of 1,500 to 2,000 rooms coming online” in the tourism industry in the next two to three years, he added.

Sablan also said that he and the Chamber board wholeheartedly believe that given all the facts that a majority of the society has come to want “certain expectations from public services” such as good public safety, good education, good health care and low cost utilities, this will “require a robust and viable economy.”

“The historical fact and until this day we would not have achieved and will not achieve our economic vitality if not for the important role we all played, but to be clear, to the many foreign national workers that contributed in one way or another to most, if not all, our individual economic benefits derived in the CNMI,” he said.

‘Positive changes’

Jim Arenovski, former Chamber president and the Chamber's 2011 Businessperson of the Year awardee, said in his remarks Saturday night that there are “noticeably positive” changes happening in the CNMI, be it economic activities such as expanding or new businesses, or government services such as at the Department of Public Safety or Division of Customs Services.

Arenovski, of Delta Management, urged Chamber members and guests to believe and do more about these “positive” changes.

He said the CNMI can't just sit around and worry about negative things, but instead has to focus on positive things and those it can control so that the CNMI can be “a better place to work, live and play.”

Sablan also thanked the 18th Legislature “for resisting the urge and heeding our call not to raise taxes or significant fees that would thwart our effort to revive the economy.” He said the CNMI is on the cusp of seeing hundreds of millions of dollars in investments, more specifically on Saipan, in the next three years.

He said legislative initiatives and the Inos administration's policies “are helping considerably to support a business-friendly atmosphere.”

Sablan also noted the island beautification efforts of Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, the Saipan Municipal Council, and others.

Another former Chamber president and Chamber's 2005 Businessperson of the Year awardee, David M. Sablan Sr., meanwhile, regaled the crowd with the history of the Chamber. He started with the formation of the business group in 1959 with Joe Tenorio, more commonly known as “Joeten,” as president. Seven years later or in 1966, Sablan took over the helm.

“Here we are, 2014. This is an election year. Voice out your opinion on democracy, Article 12... Let us stand up for the benefit of the Saipan Chamber

of Commerce,” he added.

Article 12 of the NMI Constitution restricts ownership of land to people of Northern Marianas descent. The Chamber wants changes to this land alienation provision.

2014 board of directors

A day after her investiture, CNMI Superior Court associate judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio administered the oath to the 2014 Chamber of Commerce board of directors led by Alex Sablan on Saturday night.

Also installed were vice president Velma Palacios, treasurer Jin Woo Choo, secretary Greg Moretti (absent at the ceremony), and directors Christopher Concepcion, Kevin McCale, Nola Hix, Rosemond Santos, and Ron Smith.

Sablan said he's honored to be leading the 2014 board once again, after leading it in 2013. He also thanked outgoing board members Melvin Tenorio and treasurer Vince Seman.

Tribute

Sablan also paid tribute to the late businessman and former Chamber president Anthony Pellegrino, who passed away last year, months after being bestowed the Chamber's 2012 Businessperson of the Year award.

“Tony should forever be remembered for his fortitude to persevere in all of his endeavors. Regardless of the hurdles, he marched on and maybe to a different beat of the drum but it was his way of dealing with the particular challenge or opportunity before him and I believe the community benefited greatly for it. His legacy will be remembered in the great effort he put forward to champion vocational workforce development at a time when others couldn't or wouldn't,” he said.

Pellegrino founded and invested in the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, an entity that Sablan said “needs our continued support as they are one of the few options to train and certify individuals to effectively enter the CNMI workforce.”

INOS

From Page 1

“I don't think we can expect any work hour cuts for the rest of the year,” he said in an interview at the investiture of CNMI Superior Court associate judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on Friday.

Government employees have expressed concern that they would again be subjected to up to 16-hour work cut per pay period. But Inos said this won't be the case—at least for the year.

The administration is now finalizing the revenue and spending on the first quarter of 2014 covering October to December 2013. Inos said based on preliminary figures, “we're tracking.”

“I haven't seen any negative signals. We're still meeting payroll. We're making the payments to the settlement fund. So we're doing a little better than just okay, with tourism numbers still going up. I hope that it continues, I think it will continue to follow the trend,” the governor said.

With \$123.4 million budget for fiscal year 2014, this means the government expects an av-

Female bicyclist hurt after being hit by pickup truck

A 62-year-old woman sustained a head injury after a pickup truck hit her as she was bicycling along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in Chalan Kiya Friday morning.

In another incident, a

44-year-old woman was injured when she fell into a transport boat while boarding to return to Saipan from Managaha Island Thursday afternoon.

In the crash case, Victoria C. Schneider sustained a laceration

on the back of her head. She is being confined at the Commonwealth Health Center in the next few days for observation.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst, CHC failed to complete a

CT scan on the victim as its machine was out of order.

Hurst said the woman was hit by a Nissan Titan pickup truck being driven by a male individual with no other passengers.

Hurst said the driver was not

issued traffic citation as police have placed the case under further investigation.

DPS received a call about a crash involving a vehicle and a bicycle on Friday at 11:43am.

When responding police officers arrived at the scene, they saw Schneider lying on her back on the side of the road next to her bicycle.

DPS firefighters and medics arrived to treat Schneider, who was then transported to CHC for treatment.

Police officers determined that the pickup truck, traveling eastbound on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road, hit the bicyclist, who was traveling in the same direction on the outermost lane.

Hurst said it appeared that the truck did not use due care and

caution when passing the bicycle because it was the truck's side rearview mirror that hit Schneider.

Hurst said that DPS Traffic Unit will be investigating the case.

In the Managaha accident, Yan Li, 44, was treated at CHC for bruises and scratches on the right knee.

DPS Boating Safety Section officers were dispatched to CHC on Thursday at 5:46pm after receiving a call about a person who got injured while boarding a boat.

The Boating Safety police officer's preliminary investigation showed that Li was boarding a transport vessel from Managaha when she slipped and fell into the boat while being assisted by the boat crew.

Li hit her right knee hard on the back seat. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

CUC FILES SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

'Redesigning the residential block structure will boost CUC revenue'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. wants to redesign the residential rate structure for its customers as a means to boost its revenue and collection, according to a supplemental report it filed with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

According to CUC consultant economists.com, the utilities agency proposes to redesign its residential rate structure by shrinking or compressing the size of the consumption blocks and to eliminate one of the rate blocks.

"CUC recommended this change because the continuing decline in residential electric average use per customer has resulted in more kWh consumed in the lower consumption blocks of the current rate structure," said economists.com in its testimony filed on Jan. 3 with CPUC.

CUC data show that residential customers are using much less electricity and that the kWh usage and the number of customers whose usage end in the first block (0-500 kWh per month) increased from about 60 percent to almost 74 percent in the last four years.

In the top block (over 2,000 kWh per month), kWh usage declined from over 7 percent to 3.8 percent over the same four-year period and the number of customers that consumes more than 2,000 kWh per month declined by 50 percent from 2 percent to just over 1 percent.

"CUC is concerned that it would be unable to collect its revenue requirement with the current blocks because the revised rates at each level would cause further declines in usage and revenue," states economists.com's report.

CUC proposes to reduce the number of blocks in its residential rate from four to three and reduce or compress the blocks by lowering the kWh threshold.

Under its proposal, the first block will be customers using 0-350 kWh per month. CUC projects that this block will contain 60 percent of residential kWh usage and about 59 percent of residential customers. CUC said this structure is very similar to the residential rate blocks at Maui Electric in Hawaii, which is the same size as CUC.

Saipan Tribune learned that in the last eight years, CUC experienced a dramatic decline in electricity usage due primarily

to increases in the cost of diesel fuel used by the corporation to generate electricity. It was disclosed that in 2006, there were approximately 12,500 residential customers who used about 134 million kWh. By 2013, CUC's residential clientele has gone down to about 11,000. Kilowatt-hour usage also plummeted to about 56 million.

The average residential customer used to consume about 895 kWh a month in 2006. In 2013, the average usage was down to about 350 kWh every month.

The other blocks in the proposed rate structure are 351-1,200 kWh per month and 1,200 per kWh per month.

GOOD NEWS!

U-LUCK POKER

is happy to announce that we are having a raffle to acknowledge all our valued customers. We want to express our deepest gratitude by having the following raffles.



Please see the table chart below on how to get your raffle ticket

BET	STRAIGHT FLUSH	5 OF A KIND	ROYAL FLUSH
10 bet - 18 bet (\$0.05)	2 ticket	4 ticket	8 ticket
5 bet (\$0.25)	2 ticket	5 ticket	25 ticket
6 bet - 10 bet (\$0.25)	5 ticket	10 ticket	50 ticket
11 bet - 20 bet (\$0.25)	10 ticket	20 ticket	100 ticket
21 bet - 40 bet (\$1.00)	20 ticket	40 ticket	200 ticket

"ALL PRIZES CAN'T BE EXCHANGE INTO CASH"

Tel: 233-0108 • Garapan next to Kimchi Cabana Karaoke
RAFFLE DATE: APRIL 12, 2014

1st Prize	ROUND TRIP TICKET FROM SAIPAN TO NEW YORK, USA (2 WINNERS) WORTH \$1500/EA.
2nd Prize	ROUND TRIP TICKET FROM SAIPAN TO SHANGHAI, CHINA (2 WINNERS) WORTH \$1000.00/EA.
3rd Prize	ONE WEEK ACCOMODATION AT SUNSHINE GARDEN (2 WINNERS) WORTH \$623.00/EA.
4th Prize	SCOOTER (2 WINNERS) WORTH \$500.00/EA.
5th Prize	GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR SUNSHINE RESTAURANT (2 WINNERS) WORTH \$200.00/EA.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

January 13, 2014

To All Our Valued Customers:

We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to all our valued customers by giving good prizes on our raffle promo, but unfortunately, the Department of Finance informed us that the regulations specifically limits the prizes to merchandise valuing less than \$35,000.00 and prohibits cash prizes.

We would like to express our deepest apology regarding the changes we've had to make in order for our raffle promo to go on.

We hope for your understanding and continued support.

U-LUCK POKER MANAGEMENT

AS PART OF GLOBAL GRANTS PROJECT

Rotary eyes dental clinic on Rota

The Rotary Club of Saipan will submit a proposal to the Rotary Foundation's Global Grants Project that aims to build a dental clinic on Rota.

Rotary Club president Laila Y. Boyer said the project will be tentatively called Rota Smiles and that the organization has already signed a memorandum of agreement with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to push the proposal forward.

"We are well underway for the first Global Grant Project for the Rotary Club of Saipan. We're very excited for that," Boyer said during Tuesday's weekly Rotary Club meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Boyer is asking all Rotary members to pitch in and also requested the CHC and CNMI government's help as the club's proposal to the Rotary Foundation's Global Grants Project must be submitted by March 31, 2014, to qualify.

To this end, Boyer announced that the Rotary's Feb. 11 meeting at the Hyatt will be attended by Rota Legislative Delegation

and officials from CHC.

For his part, Paul Harris Foundation committee director Pete Schilling said that Seventh Day Adventist Clinic director Ken Pierson is expected to fly to Rota soon to meet with Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola and Rota Health Center officials discuss the proposal to build a dental clinic on the island.

Schilling added that no less than Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) has offered help in funding the proposed Rota dental clinic, suggesting that earmarks could come from the CHC budget.

Global Grants support large international activities with sustainable and measurable outcomes and are funded with a combination of District Designated Funds or cash contributions and matching funds from The Rotary Foundation's World Fund.

The minimum award amount from the World Fund is \$15,000, which means that the minimum project budget is \$30,000. *(Mark Rabago)*

The 2013 Bagong Bayani Awards awarding ceremony in Malacañang will be held on June 3, 2014, during the country's Migrant Workers' Week celebration. **(Mark Rabago)**

Alabama judge thinks racism colors immigration reform

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

According to whitehouse.gov, President Obama's proposal for immigration reform gives undocumented immigrants a legal way to earn citizenship, is designed to stop businesses from exploiting the system by knowingly hiring undocumented workers, provides visas to foreign entrepreneurs looking to start businesses in America, and strengthens the nation's ability to remove criminals and appre-

USGS reports two quakes near Guam

HAGÂTÑA, Guam (AP)—Two earthquakes greater than 5 in magnitude struck near Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands on Thursday.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported that the first quake, a magnitude 5.9, occurred at just before 3pm Thursday about 85 miles east of Hagåtña, Guam.

The second quake, a magnitude 5.5, occurred less than half an hour later near the same location, about 80 miles east of Hagåtña.

Clint Simpson, lead forecaster with the National Weather Service in Guam, said he wasn't aware of any damage and didn't even feel the quakes at the NWS office in Tiyan.

hend and prosecute threats to national security. The proposed reforms have sparked debates and disagreements not only in the U.S but also in the CNMI.

Saipan resident Maise B. Tenorio believes that racism play a role in immigration reform and she asked this of Alabama 10th Circuit Judge Helen Shores Lee during the judge's

presentation on MLK Day on Monday. Tenorio asked Lee whether or not she thinks racism plays a role in how the issue is being discussed nationally.

"To be quite honest, I think it does," Lee replied. "It is very subtle, very subtle but I think it does."

Lee noted that the United States was built by immigrants

that migrated here many years ago.

"We don't seem to embrace diversity from different cultures. I don't know if we don't understand it or don't want to upset the status quo or what it is. But we don't embrace diversity," she added.

Lee added that she feels that the U.S is becoming more di-

verse and there is, in her personal opinion, "a mean-spirited atmosphere that prevails."

Tenorio agreed with Lee's response. She said, "A lot of it is backlash in terms of the fact we have an African-American president."

Tenorio explained how she think that people feel like they are losing control and "have to

do what they have to do to keep their power"—in this case removing the immigrants.

"I think people feel like they have to choose between supporting immigrants or the indigenous," she said. "But we don't have to choose. We can love our Commonwealth and our people at the same time and fight for the rights of everyone."

Youth group invited to FSM for mission trip in June

By THOMAS A. MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Grace Christian Academy Youth Pastor Sarah Klockowski says that one of the visions she's

had since coming to Saipan in 2009 was to "start a youth mission's organization." Her vision is slowly becoming a reality after a series of fundraising events that will fund a mission's trip to

the Federated States of Micronesia in June.

Klockowski said the purpose of the trip is to encourage the youth of Saipan to "share Jesus' love with their neighbors and

build relationships between the youth of the islands."

The group, Youth on the Rock, needs \$10,000 to go on the trip. The money raised will cover all expenses for the team, including hotels, cars, gas, and food. The 14 students and three chaperones expected to go on the trip will each pay for their own airfare.

The group held a Talent Show fundraiser last Saturday at the GCA campus and raised \$600, adding to the estimated \$2,000 they have already raised.

Klockowski told *Saipan Tribune* that GCA pastor Rev. Raymond Kinsella attended a leadership summit in FSM last summer and shared testimonies about the group's youth trip to Palau last year. The pastors then invited the group to serve on their islands this year for two and a half weeks.

GCA students ranging from

8th to 12th grade will be conducting youth and children's outreach as well as leading community concerts and activities in FSM.

GCA senior and Youth on the Rock member Emman Parion believes this trip is important because "religion is very important" in his culture. "I want to go on the trip to spread the word of Jesus and to learn their [FSM] culture."


Youth on the Rock is the youth ministry of GCA, which was established in 1980. The group currently has 70 students attending their Friday services. To learn more about this youth group or to make a monetary contribution call 287-YOTR.

"Ultimately we want teenagers to see that they don't have to wait until they are older to start making a difference for Christ. The faith of a teenager is powerful, and God can use them in incredible way," Klockowski said.




Members of the Grace Christian Academy's youth ministry act out a play titled *Masks* during their talent show fundraiser last Friday night at the GCA campus.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-14-010

SAN ANTONIO AND GARAPAN SEWERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewerline in San Antonio and Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) sewerline in Garapan and San Antonio area. The project is to replace approximately ± 1099 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, ± 887 LF of existing 12-inch ACP, ± 374 LF of existing 15-inch ACP, existing concrete manhole repairs, 6-inch and 4-inch service laterals connection, wastewater by pass pumping and road restoration. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 5, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 31, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-14-010, San Antonio and Garapan Sewerline Replacement Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 14, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.


All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 05, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Brian Bearden, Senior Engineer, CUC Water/Wastewater Division via email address brian.bearden@cucgov.org and Birhen Martinez, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
 Executive Director,
 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
 Manager, Procurement & Supply
 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 PO Box 502149; Saipan, MP 96950
 Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 Fax: (670) 235-7147



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Wednesday, January 29, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. on the application of Sea Touch, LLC, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed business that will engage in interactive marine activities, marine animal encounters and other associated activities, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at the CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
 Executive Director

'I am Chamorro' fundraiser earns \$9.3K



MARK RABAGO

From left, Father Eric Forbes, DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce, Margaret Jones, Triple J Group CEO Bob Jones, Manhita Chamorro president Joanne Tabor Modic, and Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan pose for a group photo following the "I Am Chamorro" fundraiser Wednesday night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

An event to raise funds to finance the production of Father Eric Forbes' *I Am Chamorro* documentary almost doubled its original target of \$5,000, according to organizer Marian Aldan-Pierce.

"Our goal was to raise \$5,000 tonight. Through pledges, ticket sales, and raffle ticket sales, we made over \$9,300," said Aldan-Pierce Wednesday night at the fundraiser held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

In addition to the generous donations of the TSL Foundation, Triple J Motors, and DFS Saipan, the Joeten-Daidai Foundation, Mt. Carmel School, and Bob and Margaret Jones also pledged \$1,000 each.

Almost a hundred people attended the event, which charged a \$50 entrance fee. Aside from earnings made at the door, "I Am

Chamorro" T-shirts were also on sale and a raffle draw for some \$7,000 worth of luxury items donated by DFS Saipan contributed to the fundraising kitty.

Forbes was among those in attendance as well as Manhita Chamorro president Joanne Tabor Modic, one of the Chamorros in California who initiated the documentary project.

Aldan-Pierce specifically thanked businessmen Jerry Tan and Bob Jones for their generous donations.

The project hopes to raise enough funds to produce an *I Am Chamorro* DVD to benefit current and future generations of Chamorros.

"I would like to thank Jerry Tan of Tan Holdings and TSL Foundation because when he found what this was all about, without hesitation he immediately offered to pay it all—the venue and the food. So everything tonight was net [earn-

ings]. The same thing with the T-shirts. When we were looking for a venue to sell the T-shirts, Bob Jones of Triple J immediately said 'no problem' and we're now selling it at Triple J Truckload Sale in Susupe."

The "I Am Chamorro" T-shirts were on sale at \$20 during the fundraising event but are regularly priced at \$24.99. It comes in eight different designs and is available in female and male sizes.

"This is a project about us, the Chamorros, regardless of where we're from. Like Father Eric said tonight, we need this DVD because there's really nothing out there that tells about us, about where we come from and our families are spread all over the world, and some are forgetting the language, the culture, and where they come from, and this is a way of getting everybody back together," said Aldan-Pierce.

Forbes thanked everyone who attended Wednesday's fundraiser and extended his gratitude to Tan and Jones for their support. "We have a full room of supporters who have donated generously and got us started here on Saipan. We will continue to have more fundraisers and get the word out to more people on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam."

Forbes said if they complete the funding by the middle part of this year, they can have the DVD done by the end of 2014 or early part of 2015 in time for the Pacific Festival of the Arts, which will be hosted by Guam in 2016.

"These DVDs will be sold for a very nominal price because we're trying to raise the funds first and then manufacture them. They will be very affordable. We will donate many of these DVDs to our public libraries and our public schools."

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 27, 2006

Many fire hydrants defective

Many fire hydrants on Saipan have been found to be defective and are no longer operational, the Saipan Tribune learned yesterday. Of the 95 fire hydrants that have already been checked by firefighters and fire cadets, about 25 to 30 have been found to be no longer in service, according to Firefighter 2 Anthony R. Babauta. Babauta said the defective hydrants are too old and usually the thread valves are broken. The valves have been damaged because some agencies or companies used other tools to get access to water, Babauta added.

VocEd program yet to get a cent from NRW fees

Even though a law is already in place stipulating that available funds from the Nonresident Worker Fee be made available to the Northern Marianas College, the college's Vocational Education program has yet to receive a single cent from the fees. According to the NMC Annual Report 2005, the historic funding level received by the college under Public Law 10-66 has never adequately met the financial needs of NMC, especially its vocational programs. The report said that in fiscal year 2001, the Comprehensive Budget Act for the CNMI government suspended all earmarking laws, including the provisions of PL 10-66, and limited funding to NMC at \$1,191,680.

January 27, 2007

Rota also wants a casino

This time, Rota's leaders are taking the faster route of simple legislation, rather than putting the proposal to a vote. On Thursday, Rep. Crispin M. Ogo introduced House Bill 15-219 to establish casino gambling in the First Senatorial District. The measure will require only the Legislature's affirmative action and the governor's signature. This is seen as the easier way to get the proposal enacted, compared with the referendum process. The last push for a Rota casino industry was done through an initiative. The initiative was placed on the Rota ballot in the 2003 midterm election. While the proposal saw an increased popularity over prior elections, the "yes" votes were not enough to ratify the initiative.

AGO dodges question on CPA leases

After taking nearly a year to issue a response, the Attorney General's Office has dodged the House of Representatives' request for a legal opinion on the allegedly illegal lease agreements that the Commonwealth Ports Authority executed with the two oil firms operating in the CNMI. Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory said it may be premature for the AGO to issue an opinion on the constitutionality of the statute that allowed CPA to enter into 40-year lease deals with Mobil Oil Marianas and Shell Marianas, until the courts resolve the legal questions involved.

January 27, 2008

Nursing board hikes fees

The Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners is now charging 30 to 400 percent more for its services. It is the first time in 25 years that the board has increased its fees. Emergency regulations adopted by the nursing board created a whole new license fee schedule for advanced practice registered nurses, graduate nurses, certified nurse technicians, and certified nursing assistants. Under the new fee scale, an APRN initial license costs \$140 and interim permit is \$90. License renewal costs \$80, while a late renewal costs \$100. An APRN license reinstatement is \$140 and endorsement is \$80.

'Take back funds from tobacco control fund'

The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, together with other coalitions and prevention leaders, is teaming up to find ways to take back the funds from the Tobacco Control Fund as per Public Law 13-38. "Anytime somebody smokes or drinks, there's a tax. Thirty percent of all those taxes go into the Tobacco Control Fund," said Coalition chair George Cruz. "The last quarter of 2007 and first quarter of 2008 have generated a little bit over \$2 million and every quarter it continuously generates." Public Law 13-38 recognizes that smoking is the single most critical risk associated with the leading chronic diseases in the CNMI. "It is therefore in the best interest of the CNMI to increase taxes on alcohol and tobacco products. This increase in revenue would be reserved for funding tobacco control programs."

POI Aviation invites qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Aircraft Service Agent (1)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 2 years experience working on aircraft interior and exterior cleaning.

Assistant Manager, Passenger Service (1)
Associate's degree with 6 years of progressive experience in airline passenger service. Minimum 3 years experience in passenger service supervisory capacity.

Lead Cargo Agent (2)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience as a cargo handler.

Manager, Aircraft Maintenance & GSE (1)
Associate's degree in Aviation Maintenance Engineering with 10 years of progressive work experience as a licensed A&P Technician and 2 years work experience as auto and diesel mechanic. Must possess a current U.S. FAA A&P license.

Manager, Ramp & Flight Operations (1)
Associate's degree with 8 years progressive airline ramp operations and flight dispatch experience. Minimum 3 years work experience in ramp operations supervisory capacity. Must possess a current U.S. FAA license as Aircraft Dispatcher.

Ramp Agent (1)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 2 years work experience in the airline industry in relations to ramp cargo loading and unloading operations.

Senior Load Planning Specialist (1)
Associate's degree with 4 years of aircraft ramp operation experience with specific airline certification as a load planner.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 30, 2014

Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2014-001

"The Expansion of the Division of Youth Services Shelter"

Proposal packets will be available on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 30, 2014, at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP14-HSEM-032

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2014 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"INSTALLATION AND PROVISION OF AN ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE CNMI'S COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT SUSUPE, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, ON FEBRUARY 13, 2014, AT THE CNMI'S COURTHOUSE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN MP 96950. ALL PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS THAT DO NOT HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED NON-RESPONSIVE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SOLICITATION.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC RFP 14-001

Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect and evaluate scientific data to better determine the potential for development of geothermal energy on Saipan. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently steep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect and evaluate extensive data will require the successful Proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on January 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-001 Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 10, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-007

ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION FOR WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and DPW. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 7, 2014** to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 30, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-007, Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 19, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 5, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water-Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than **February 10, 2014**.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-008

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of approximately 18,000,000 US gallons annually of **Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel (Grade No. 2-D S15)** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" ASTM D975-11 or the latest revision.

The RFP package may be obtained upon completion of registration and receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **January 16, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-008, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **January 21, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email charles.warren@cucgov.org and Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-009

Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop CUC's Integrated Resource Plan, which is a long-range plan that will select the most cost-effective mix of energy resources, both supply-side and demand-side, following a review of commercially available base load and renewable energy alternatives. This project will also include the design and development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for total system power supply, the design and implementation of financial models to be used for comparing both energy supply and renewable power integration options, along with Independent Evaluator (IE) services to develop and administer third-party, technical and financial review of received energy supply proposals, for the purposes of advising the CUC during the energy supply proposal selection process.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on **January 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**, at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-009, Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 26, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 12, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

First, end the atrocities in Syria



As international talks in search of a cease-fire and regime change in Syria get under way this week in Switzerland, there is a humanitarian disaster unfolding that must take top priority.

Photos of the corpses of more than 11,000 people reportedly starved, tortured and executed in jails controlled by President Bashar Assad have been smuggled out of Syria by a police photographer. And fighting in the civil war has trapped tens of thousands of civilians without food, water and medicine now that Assad has unconscionably embraced starvation as a weapon of war.

Achieving the ultimate goal of the United Nations diplomatic summit in Geneva—easing Assad from power—is a long shot. So as direct talks begin Friday, the United States and its allies should demand a verifiable end to the systematic killing and press the Assad regime for a show of good faith: an agreement to allow convoys carrying humanitarian aid to reach suffering civilians.

About 250,000 civilians are isolated in rebel-held areas besieged by government forces, out of reach of aid deliveries, according to the United Nations. Millions more are in areas that are barely accessible. Aid workers have had little success negotiating access to the sick and starving in a country where about 9 million people—nearly half the population—have been driven from their homes since the civil war began in 2011.

Standing by as preventable tragedy claims innocent lives offends the conscience and could erode U.S. influence as the world's lone superpower. But military intervention is out of the question. The United States has no compelling national interest in this war, is repulsed by the bloodthirsty Assad regime and is sensibly unwilling to aid an opposition dominated by radical Islamists.

But now that both sides in the conflict have joined the United States and others in negotiations, the immediate priority must be ending the atrocities.

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Land of the morning

When I entered primary school shortly before I was 5, born five days before the fateful day over Hiroshima, I started my school singing of the national anthem in English, called *Land of the Morning*, a 1920 translation by an American Commission of the Spanish version with Camilo Osias and A. L. Lane at the pen. The words were Elizabethan era poetic:

*Land of the morning
Child of the sun returning
With fervor burning
Thee do our souls adore.*

Nationalistic orientation biased me against the original Spanish poem *Filipinas* by Jose Palmas of 1899, but tuned to the 1998 *Marcha Nacional* of Julian Felipe, I learned the English version by rote. Ramon Magsaysay resuscitated the Japanese-era Tagalog version titled *Diwa ng Bayan*, and Ferdinand Marcos' pushed an official version, so we made acquaintance with *Lupang Hinirang* of 1956 (I learned it as *Bayang Magiliw*), with the 1960 revision becoming the final copy.

This is probably too long of a context to remind my feet of plans to return back to familiar soil next month. The last time my shoes got *hinirang'd* was more than five years ago, and this next three weeks' trip that might include a visit to the land of my birth could very well be my last in a long while, if not the final one.

Our peripatetic journeys that took me through the whole length of the Jolo-to-Aparri canopy (missed Batan, Palawan, Sibuyan, Calamian and the Polilio islands), also led me to call on Jakarta and Bangor, Kuala Lumpur, Johor and Singapore, and Bangar Seri Bagawan of Brunei. Folks from Sabah, Sarawak, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Irian Jaya, Java, and Sumatra, and the rest of the Greater and Lesser Sunda Islands, exchanged smiles with me across international conference tables.

When Diosdado Macapagal proposed the formation of a Malay Federation called Maphilindo in 1963, I understood and gave it a nod. It was short-lived as Sukarno went on a *konfrontasi* stance against UK's plan to turn Malaya into Malaysia. The ASEAN has since expanded the impetus, no longer limited to the political boundaries set by Spain, the English and the Dutch, in the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Europe's Orient was simply east (*oriens*) of Pinsk and the Bosphorus, but units within it promoted their own native understandings as Nippon is the Land of the Rising Sun, Choson/Hanguk is the Land of the Morning Calm, Thailand is the Land of the Free, and Pakistan is the Land of the Pure. China, previously of five homogeneous physical macro-regions, now markets itself in its new economic pre-eminence as the Land of Opportunity. The Philippines still claims to plant its rice early from its humble *bahay kubo* dwellings as the Land of the Morning! My heart throbs to that sentimental image.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



It is 2014. The cross ocean currents off Catanduanes and Polilio no longer push the fresh airs of Lamon Bay to Laguna de Bay, incapable of clearing the smog-laden fog of Metro Manila, even as only the pollution filter of mussels from Manila Bay and the sturdy *galunggung* (scad) still survive the toxic waters of the archipelago. What were once lush watersheds of Marikina and slopes to the Tagaytay crater have become funnels for rainwater to quickly flood the low-lying areas of the capital metropolis.

Resilience of Pinoyze (will explain that word in another article) in Tacloban, in west Mindanao and Jolo floods, in Bohol and Siquijor quakes, Sugbu and Cagayan de Oro tremors, have joined the people's signature of "people's power" of EDSA employed by Khmer reformers now vs. Hun Sen.

In our appropriation of the cognitive overview occasioned by the earthrise image of Apollo 8 of '68, the glow of the Land of the Morning got shifted to the whole planet. As alluded to earlier, the Philippines is a political unit separate from its neighbors Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Indochina only by virtue of the competing powers that colonized them!

This was, of course, different from our nationalistic *Lupang Hinirang* understanding of the '60s, so returning to the land of our birth is not so much a journey home as a visit to the original site that nurtured my earth-sense of home.

Land of the morning now comes with a precarious reality of climate change as the *Child of the sun returning* pushes us to the possibilities of solar energy and power even as *With fervor burning* invest no less than the height of our passion on things green and human, and to *Thee do our souls adore* is an intentional but solemn regard of that solitary blue orb in the sky revolving around an insignificant sun in a few billion year trek in the universe.

The Land of the Morning has since become a state in the topography of our soul, applicable wherever we are in this planet. China is our current battlefield as forces eager to define the Land of Opportunity in terms of environmental abuse just for the sake of the short-term financial bottom dominate the landscape. We shall operate inland Far East knowing that global pressure might be needed to call attention to an obvious but ignored worldwide plight.

OK, ah, one, ah, two....*Land of the morning...*

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Land compensation, anybody?

Land compensation has been a longstanding issue for decades. It's private land acquired by the government for various public purposes. While some have been justly compensated (including some unjustly cases), there's an outstanding 300 unresolved claims.

The cumulative debt of \$100 million is still owed landowners. Given the fiscal impotence of the NMI there's a fat chance final settlement is anywhere in sight.

Nonetheless, land compensation was exploited and corrupted politically. It granted settlement to those with connections, including an incredibly ludicrous award for wetland of some \$2.7 million. This is one egregious case surrounded by sheer corruption.

It started with an appraisal valuating the wetland as if it were prime land. The board accepted it and delivered the check forthwith! My personal estimate of the property was nothing more than \$50K. The balance could have paid for other settlements waiting in line.

Then came the request from impeached former governor Benigno R. Fitial that I pay his cousin over \$300,000. It boils down to the combined use of exploitation and corruption to settle an issue "because his family is going to help me." Fitial subsequently ran for re-election. He mutilated or shredded integrity beyond recognition.

It's all about greed and the abuse of power. Glad the payment didn't come out of the "segregated" funds of DPL. But why would he ignore the plight of the rest who equally deserve fair compensation?

This was the defining moment in my decision to leave after Fitial's first term. He was persistent in his statist dictates where I honestly quiz if the Fitial I used to know is the same person.

It pays to know your constitutional obligations. I do. Fitial thinks he does but is equally sleek and corrupt in his ways, chanting "let's do it right" while doing the complete opposite. Subsequently, I came to see raw abuse of political power by a greedy politician who's lost his true north, suffocating the helpless who equally deserves fair compensation.

It was woefully difficult making Fitial understand the constitutional roles and functions of the department. While Public Law 50-2

transferred it to the Executive Branch, the governing policies remain constitutional. He simply ignored the supremacy of laws. Since when could local law trump the strength of constitutional law? So much for his often-repeated mantra, "Let's do it right." About the only thing right was my resignation! I wasn't ready to compromise the rights of the indigenous people in the lease funds of their land.

There were difficult situational issues relating to land compensation. For instance, a family with legitimate claims would ask for partial payment for catastrophic family emergencies. It had to be denied until the entire nine yards is settled. It's a decision that ripped me apart given the trauma of emotional roller coaster families had to endure in the impending loss of loved ones. Legitimate their claims may be, nothing is paid until full settlement is reached.

The delay in settlement is usually caused by familial indecisions on a court-appointed administrator or lack of a unified decision on the mode of compensation: money or land or some of both. It's always good to ensure familial agreement in land compensation cases. This is especially vital when there are funds available for final settlement. There's no room for a family feud. Leave that on your TV screen or Channel 59.

Interference in land leases

It's hard navigating and holding on to integrity so mandated by the Constitution while listening to career politicians who've learned to game the system. It's the right of the indigenous public landowners crashing against the boss' interest to grant as much tax breaks to his cherry-picked investors. It's another of those hard-learned lessons dealing with the Laulau Bay Development.

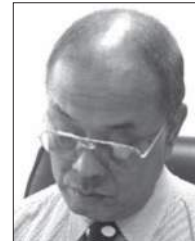
Fitial and Inos made sure the firm was granted over \$26 million in tax breaks under the qualifying certificate or QC. I was instructed to forgive the cost of appraisal (\$30K) and even signed a guarantee so Kumho could use the public land as collateral for a \$2 million loan from the Micronesian Development Bank to furnish the new hotel.

The issue is the dire need to revisit the QC law to figure out whether the public landowners aren't shortchanged in the lease of their property, cut in every corner with taxes handed down a silver

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



platter by politicians. The danger of shoving aside DPL's constitutional roles and functions is the surest way to screw the indigenous landowners of deserving fees from land leases. The firm took the tax break, made off with everything it could, then sold the property to another firm.

I'm sure the firm made millions while we walk home with bread-crumbs. Wasn't there a reason DPL was given constitutional mandate? Wasn't it to protect indigenous landowners from greedy and mindless politicians like we've seen in recent past? Despicable!

Landownership outside Article 12

Can you own land in spite of restrictions under Article 12?

Definitely!

It's called inheritance, i.e., you were given a piece of property by your parents or landowner. Would you dare contest this issue? Nah! It's a waste of time.

The other is through adoption but you would have to be taken in by your new parents while you're below the age of 18. You're as good as the original genes. It's ludicrous to adopt the kid then disown him/her. Isn't it the goal to bring this person into the family fold?

Would contest the foundation that sets this kid on the right track to becoming a productive member of our community? Nah! Let's work in harmony.

Now, where does land go when a childless couple dies without disposing of their property? You need to see counsel familiar with indigenous land tenure system for an answer.

Asian-Americans and the 'model minority' myth

By ELLEN D. WU
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Previews of Amy Chua's forthcoming book, *The Triple Package* (co-written with husband Jed Rubenfeld), detonated a social media uproar among Asian-Americans. Many were infuriated by the *New York Post's* report that Chua, the self-styled Tiger Mom, was identifying eight superior "cultural" groups in the United States: Jewish, Indian, Chinese, Iranian, Lebanese, Nigerian, Cuban and Mormon. For Asian-Americans, the problem is about another Chua production that seems to perpetuate the "model minority" myth and, in particular, the notion that Asians are culturally—even genetically—endowed with the characteristics that enable them to succeed in American society.

Before the mid-20th century, the Tiger Mom did not exist in the national imagination. Instead, Americans believed that Chinese culture was disgusting and vile, viewing U.S. Chinatowns as depraved colonies of prostitutes, gamblers and opium addicts bereft of decency. Lawmakers and citizens deployed these arguments to justify and maintain the segregation, marginalization and exclusion of Chinese from mainline society between the 1870s and World War II. Those efforts were more than effective: to have a "Chinaman's chance" at that time meant that one had zero prospects.

There is danger in offering culture as a formula for success, because our ideas of culture are hardly fixed. The history of Americans' views about Chinese immigrant behaviors shows that "culture" often serves as a blank screen onto which individuals project various political agendas, depending on the exigencies of the moment.

During World War II, white liberals agonized that racism was damaging the United States' ability to fight a war for democracy against the Axis powers. Many felt that the Chinese exclusion laws, which had barred migrants from China from entering the country or becoming naturalized citizens since the 1870s, risked America's trans-Pacific alliance with China against Japan. A coast-to-coast campaign emerged to overturn the laws. The Citizens Committee to Repeal Chinese Exclusion recognized that it would have to neutralize deep-seated fear of "yellow peril" coolie hordes. So it strategically recast Chinese in its promotional materials as "law-abiding, peace-loving, courteous people living quietly among us." Congress repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943.

In the 1950s, journalists, social scientists and policymakers re-

cycled this fledgling idea, circulating it further and wider as they groped for a solution to what they perceived as a national juvenile delinquency crisis. *The New York Times Magazine* emphasized that Chinese youths displayed "unquestioned obedience" toward their elders, while *Look* magazine celebrated their "high moral sense." U.S. Rep. Arthur Klein of New York praised his Manhattan Chinatown constituents for their "respect for parents and teachers," "stable and loving home life" and thirst for education.

These narratives gained traction because they upheld two dominant lines of Cold War-era thinking. The first was the valorization of the nuclear family. Popular portrayals of Chinese-American households that attributed their orderliness to Confucian tradition resonated with contemporary conservative mores. The second was anti-communism. Observers who lauded stateside Chinese and their "venerable" Confucianism effectively drew contrasts between U.S. Chinatowns and Mao Tse-tung's China to suggest that superiority of the American way of life.

By the 1960s, the concept of strong, disciplined families became the basis of the new racial stereotype of Chinese-Americans as "model minorities": domestic exemplars, upwardly mobile and politically docile. In the midst of the black freedom movement of the 1960s, numerous politicians and academics and the mainstream media contrasted Chinese with African-Americans. They found it expedient to invoke Chinese "culture" to counter the demands of civil rights and black power activists for substantive change.

In 1966, then-Assistant Secretary of Labor Daniel Patrick Moynihan defended his controversial claim that the too-strong emphasis on patriarchy in black "culture" was to blame for the "deterioration" of African-American communities by pointing to the "enlightened family life" of the relatively well-to-do Chinese. The magazine *U.S. News & World Report* unequivocally made the same charged comparison: "At a time when it is being proposed that hundreds of billions be spent to uplift Negroes and other minorities, the nation's 300,000 Chinese-Americans are moving ahead on their own—with no help from anyone else."

Then, as now, Asian-Americans were troubled by what they saw as untrue juxtapositions. For one, the stereotype glossed over the myriad difficulties their communities faced: poverty, drugs, suicide, mental illness. Ling-chi Wang warned in UC Berkeley's *Asian-American Political Alliance* newsletter (1968) that Chinatown's problems "will forever be neglected by the government" unless the community liberated itself from "the tyranny of this Chinese myth."

Moreover, critics disliked the ways in which ideas about Asian-Americans reinforced the denigration of African-Americans. Writing for Los Angeles-based *Gidra* magazine in 1969, Amy Uyematsu resented being implicated in "white racism" by being "held up" before other minority groups as a "model to emulate."

Today, the "model minority" concept both fascinates and upsets precisely because it offers an unambiguous yet inaccurate blueprint for solving the nation's most pressing issues. The obstacles Americans face in the global economy, our declining prospects for socioeconomic mobility and the uncertainty of parenting in difficult times—all are real challenges. But "culture" cannot explain "success" any more than it can serve as a panacea for the dilemmas of the new millennium.

We've heard enough of specious generalizations about "model minorities." We need to see Asian-Americans—and other racial, ethnic and religious groups—for what they are: dynamic, diverse and much more than one-dimensional stereotypes.

Ellen D. Wu, a history professor at Indiana University, is the author of The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tour of Guam






I was very excited at the opportunity to compete in the Tour of Guam last weekend and represent my sponsors who helped me bring back a gold medal as first in my age group. Saipan Sea Ventures, Saipan Ice and Water Company, Brabu Pharmacy, Bike Pro, and Dee Clayton Classic all contributed to make this trip possible for me. I was pleased to have biked with the other cyclists who made the trip to Guam with the help of their sponsors and the NMICF and together represent Saipan. Our young riders are an inspiration, and it was great to see Gerald Rangamar receive his first place medal for winning his age category. We are very fortunate to have such a tremendous amount of support from our community, and I look forward to competing for Saipan again next year.

Susan Marchitti
via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

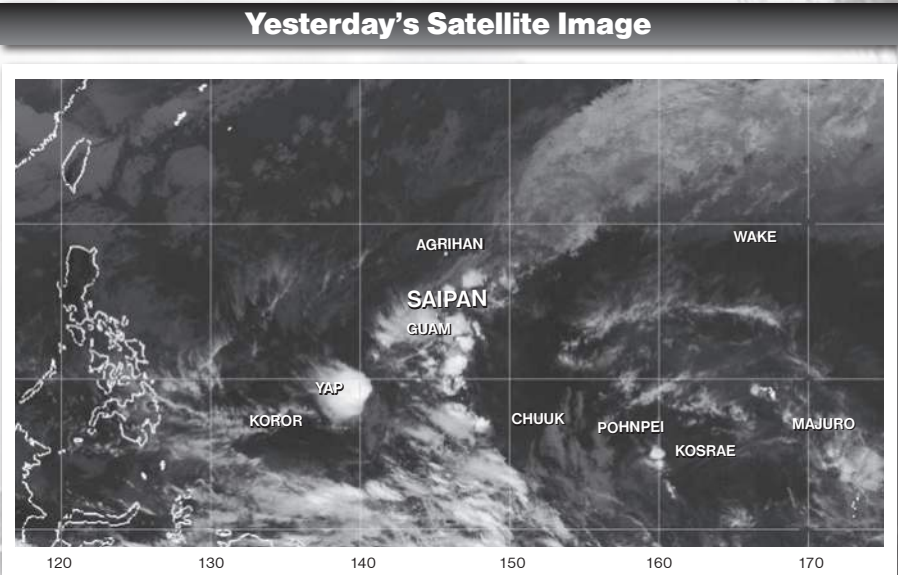
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼75
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼80

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲74 ▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲43 ▼22
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲69 ▼60
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼60
London	Showers	▲46 ▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76 ▼50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼72
Melbourne	Sunny	▲96 ▼62
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼61
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲33 ▼2
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲51 ▼37
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲45 ▼38
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲49 ▼39
Rome	Showers	▲50 ▼41
Salem	Cloudy	▲50 ▼39
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲68 ▼47
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲40 ▼24
Tokyo	Sunny	▲55 ▼35
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲35 ▼10

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
3:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front runs west-southwestward from 21N180 to 20N173E and continues as a stationary front to 18N150E then transitions to a shear line to end near 11N140E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy showers are located along and up to 450 miles northwest of the frontal boundary northeast of 18N152E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near the shear line over the Marianas within 140 miles of a line from 10N140E to 19N151E. A broad circulation is centered northeast of Yap near 12N142E. Low-level convergence south and southeast of the circulation is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Yap and well southwest of Chuuk between 8N and the equator from 136E to 148E. A surface trough extends southwestward from the circulation northeast of Yap to beyond 130E at 1N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror Palau south of a line from 2N130E to 1N138E. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from 4N153E to a circulation centered southwest of Kosrae near 3N161E then turns southeastward to EQ169E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over Kosrae and southeast of Pohnpei between 8N and 1N from 156E to 165E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands within 20 miles of a line from 9N161E to 9N167E to 6N171E. Similar weather is located southeast of Majuro within 90 miles of a line from 5N175E to 3N180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:13 PM	Today	2:42 AM	2:25 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM	Tuesday	3:42 AM	3:26 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM	Wednesday	4:43 AM	4:29 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM	Thursday	5:42 AM	5:34 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM	Friday	6:37 AM	6:38 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

- REQUIREMENTS**
- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
 - To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
 - The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
 - For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily		UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily		UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily	
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota		UA5039	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
					UA5038	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota	
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6		UA5077	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily	
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily		UA5079	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)					GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				
UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5038	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6	
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)					ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				
UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5038	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)					OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ101	8:30am	2:00pm	3	
OZ102	2:20am	5:50am	3		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ103	7:30pm	1:00am+1	6	
OZ6063	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
					OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
DZ104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6		OZ6053	9:10pm	2:30am+1	3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5		MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		PR110/UA5072	7:35am	5:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:05am	3, 6 via GUM		DL172/288	7:45am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT	
DL287/473	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT		UA190/5077	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 7 via Guam	
UA5068/PR111	8:40am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA190/5079	10:00am	5:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5039/183	1:35pm	9:30pm	5 via Guam		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5039/183	1:35pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Guam		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM		UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		UA184/5071	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
UA5078/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM						
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN						
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA5038/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM		UA180/5071	11:10pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN						
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN)					TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN				
D2884	10:45am	2:45pm	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24		D2885	4:45pm	12:20am +1	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
D2880	4:30pm	8:00pm	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27		D2881	10:00pm	5:15am +1	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH)					WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN				
D2882	11:00am	3:15pm	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26		D2883	5:15pm	12:20am +1	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency		
Guam-Rota									
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily		
Rota-Saipan									
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily		
Guam-Rota									
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily		
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily		
Saipan-Rota									
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily		
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily		
Saipan-Tinian									
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	Tinian-Saipan					
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily		
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily		
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily		
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily		
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily		
				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily		
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily		



JIM STOWELL

From left to right: Guam Superior Court Judge Arthur R. Barcinas, Guam Superior Court Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena, Judge Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, Justice John A. Manglona, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Perry P. Tenorio, Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, retired NMI presiding judge Edward Manibusan, Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, U.S. District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, Alabama 10th Judicial Circuit Judge Helen Shores Lee, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, and former associate justice Jesus C. Borja.



JIM STOWELL

NMI Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro said in his remarks that the ceremony reaffirms “our solemn commitment to the ‘rule of law,’ a government ‘...of the people, by the people, and for the people.’ As justices and judges let us cherish, nurture and forever defend these core values.”



JIM STOWELL

Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio in chambers with, from left to right Guam Associate Judge Arthur R. Barcinas, Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, Guam Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorna, and Judge Joseph N. Camacho.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Superior Court and Office of Adult Probation staff pose for a group photo shortly before the start of the Judicial Investiture Ceremony.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio and her family pose with Gov. Eloy Inos, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, press secretary Angel Demapan, and Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez. Also in the photo are CNMI and Guam current and former judges and justices, and Circuit Judge Helen Shores Lee of the 10th Judicial Circuit of Alabama, third from right.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Members of the Marianas High School's Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club perform musical selection during the Judicial Investiture Ceremony. The group received thunderous applause from guests at the ceremony.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CNMI lawmaker and Cabinet members attend the Judicial Investiture Ceremony for Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio.

Island Snapshots



AYUDA PARTNERS

The Ayuda Network, Inc. receives a donation of one split type 24,000 BTU air conditioning unit from Jose A. Reyes a businessman and community advocate, on Jan. 23, 2014. The turnover ceremony was witnessed by Rep. Antonio R. Agulto, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare; Angie Guerrero, ANI board of director from Karidat Social Services; Malua T. Peter, Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition policy chair and an advocate for community health initiatives; Diana T. Camacho, executive director of Ayuda Network, Inc.; and other witnesses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ANI would like to express its thanks to the GREE staff for installing the AC Unit free of charge. The Ayuda Network Inc. board of directors and its network of partner agencies from government and non-government entities would like to extend their appreciation and deep gratitude to both Rep. Antonio R. Agulto for his efforts in helping the network find a donor and to Jose A. Reyes for his donation. The network was without one for the past 16 months after it was stolen.



TINIAN VISITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bryan Wood, chief planner for the U.S. Marine Corps, Pentagon, meets with Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz at the atomic bomb pits area, National Historic Landmark, North Field for a view of the proposed CJMT training area.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bryan Wood, chief planner for the U.S. Marine Corps, Pentagon, visits Tinian with Roger Natsuhara, ASN EI&E; Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne; Joe Ludovici, JGPO; Craig Whelden, USMC MARFORPAC; Craig Jensen, ASN EI&E attorney; and CDR Coleman, aide.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 15th birthday to Deion Xavier Calvo Agun! May your day be filled with lots of love and happiness, today and always. With all our love, your family.



DRILL TEAM

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion Drill Team is preparing for an upcoming on-island competition early this year. Their first expected competition will be the CNMI Drill Meet, which will be held on March 15, 2014, where they will be competing against different high school drill teams on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The winner of this competition gets to compete in the Western Golden Bear National Drill Competition in California on April 26, 2014, where they will have the opportunity to compete against drill teams in the United States JROTC programs. The drill team consists of the color guard, unarmed, armed, fancy and exhibition drill teams.



The Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion Color Guard, from left, C/CPT Lizel Banales, C/Sgt.1st Class Ayna Ongelungel, C1LT Danielle Mafnas, and C/SSG Stephanie Lambado.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion Exhibition Drill Team.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion Fancy Team.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SCC Installation Dinner

Photos By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



RJ Corp.'s Marcia E. Ayuyu writes down her bid for a silent auction Saturday night at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's installation dinner.



Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Businessperson of the Year Jim Arenovski of Delta Management, center, joins newly installed Chamber vice president Velma Palacios, second from right, and others also from IT&E for a group photo Saturday night.



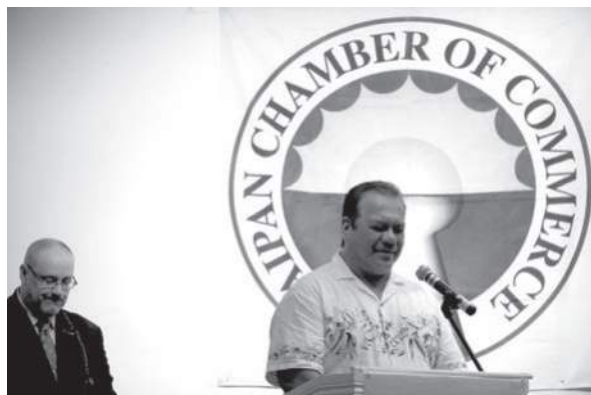
Sun Palace Hotel co-owner Shirley Kim tries her luck at a silent auction during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's installation dinner on Saturday.



Saipan Chamber of Commerce board director Nola Hix signs a document officially accepting membership into the Chamber's 2014 board of directors, as others wait for their turn.



▲ A day after her public investiture, CNMI Superior Court associate judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, left, administers the oath of office to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2014 board of directors led by president Alex Sablan, at the Chamber's installation dinner in the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan on Saturday night.



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), right, and IT&E's Janice Tenorio at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's installation dinner on Saturday.



▲ Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Patrick Leon Guerrero, right, leads the closing prayers during the installation dinner.



Newly-sworn in members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2014 board of directors on stage.

Business

FHB assets exceed \$17 billion in 2013



HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaii's largest and oldest bank, grew total assets to \$17.1 billion in 2013. The bank's loan and lease portfolio reached a record \$9.5 billion and deposits achieved a high of \$13.6 billion for the year.

The bank reported net income of \$51.5 million for the fourth quarter 2013, a 3.0 percent decline over the comparable period of 2012. First Hawaiian's 2013 net income was \$206.9 million, a decrease of 4.6 percent over 2012. The reduction in year-to-date net income is due primarily to the gain on sale of leased equipment recorded in 2012, and lower gains on sales of securities in 2013 as compared to the year prior.

Excluding the one-time gain on sale of leased equipment and gains on sales of securities, full year net income for 2013 increased by 2.4 percent over the adjusted full year net income for 2012.

The announcement was made by Bob Harrison, First Hawaiian Bank president and CEO.

"First Hawaiian Bank's

» Achieves record levels in loans, deposits and total assets

growth has been steady year-over-year, building a solid foundation of strength for our customers, many of whom we have been serving for generations. I am especially proud of our employees who made it possible for First Hawaiian to become a \$17.1 billion bank," said Harrison. "With the economy improving and construction projects underway, we expect a continuation of this consistent, measured growth in 2014."

For the 12 months ending Dec. 31, 2013, First Hawaiian Bank achieved the following over the prior year:

- Total assets reached a record \$17.1 billion, up 2.8 percent.

- Total deposits were a record \$13.6 billion, an increase of 5.3 percent.

- Total loans and leases were a record \$9.5 billion up 5.7 percent.

- Non-performing assets to total assets remained one of the lowest in the banking industry at 0.19 percent.

- Efficiency ratio was 46.78 percent making First Hawaiian the most productive bank in Hawaii and one of the most efficient in the nation.

- In the fourth quarter of 2013, First Hawaiian noted several accomplishments and milestones:

- First Hawaiian Bank opened its newly constructed Aina Haina Branch. The bank opened the original Aina Haina Branch in the same Aina Haina Shopping Center in 1960 and has been a part of the Aina Haina community for over 53 years.

- The bank made a \$100,000 donation in support of the Super Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts and waived wire transfer fees to the Philippines.

- In 2013, First Hawaiian was once again named one of Hawaii's most charitable companies by Hawaii Business Magazine. Through its employee campaign and foundation, the bank donated over \$2.5 million to 400 charities in Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan, bringing its total community donation to \$10 million over the past four years.

- The Association of Fundraising Professionals recognized First Hawaiian Bank with their 2013 Outstanding Corporation Award.

- The First Hawaiian Bank quarterly Business Activity Report showed Hawaii credit and debit card sales transac-

tions up 6.90 percent with growth in all 16 sectors for 2013. Statewide credit and debit card transactions continued the positive growth trend in fourth quarter 2013, posting a 2.29 percent gain for same store sales over the year prior.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with \$17.1 billion in total assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution. (FHB)

In Davos, nations vow to extend global trade deal



AP

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht, left, gestures as he speaks with U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman, prior to a session at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014.

United reports \$1.1 billion full-year 2013 profit



CHICAGO—United Airlines reported Friday full-year 2013 net income of \$1.084 billion, an increase of 84 percent year-over-year, or \$2.84 per diluted share, excluding \$513 million of special charges.

Including special charges, UAL reported full-year 2013 net income of \$571 million, or \$1.53 per diluted share. UAL reported fourth-quarter 2013 net income of \$298 million, or \$0.78 per diluted share, excluding \$158 million of special charges. Including special charges, UAL reported fourth-quarter 2013 net income of \$140 million, or \$0.37 per diluted share.

- UAL earned a 10.0 percent return on invested capital in 2013.

- UAL generated \$38.3 billion of revenue in 2013, an increase of 3.0 percent year-over-year.

- United's consolidated passenger revenue per available seat mile (PRASM) increased 3.1 percent in 2013 compared to 2012.

- Full-year 2013 consolidated unit costs (CASM), holding fuel rate and profit sharing constant and excluding special charges and third-party business expense,

increased 3.8 percent year-over-year on a consolidated capacity reduction of 1.4 percent. Full-year 2013 consolidated CASM increased 1.2 percent year-over-year.

- UAL ended 2013 with \$6.1 billion in unrestricted liquidity.

- Employees earned \$190 million in profit sharing for full-year 2013, which will be distributed on Feb. 14.

- For the 10th consecutive year, readers of *Global Traveler* magazine voted United's MileagePlus program the Best Frequent-Flyer program.

"We significantly improved our operations, customer service and financial results in 2013 thanks to the outstanding work of the United team," said Jeff Smisek, UAL's chairman, president and chief executive officer. "Our goals for 2014 are to provide even more reliable operations, great customer service and materially better financial performance."

Revenue and capacity

For the fourth quarter of 2013, total revenue was \$9.3 billion, an increase of 7.2 percent year-over-year. Fourth-quarter consolidated passenger revenue increased 5.9 percent to \$8.0 billion, compared to the same period in 2012. Other revenue

in the fourth quarter increased 22.2 percent year-over-year to \$1.1 billion, in large part due to an agreement to sell jet fuel to a third party. Ancillary revenue per passenger in the fourth quarter increased 15 percent year-over-year to nearly \$21 per passenger. Fourth-quarter cargo revenue decreased 9.5 percent versus the fourth quarter of 2012 to \$220 million.

Consolidated revenue passenger miles increased 2.7 percent on a consolidated capacity (available seat miles) increase of 2.6 percent year-over-year for the fourth quarter, resulting in a fourth-quarter consolidated load factor of 82.4 percent.

Fourth-quarter 2013 consolidated PRASM increased 3.2 percent compared to the same period in 2012. Consolidated yield for the fourth quarter of 2013 increased 3.0 percent year-over-year.

"Our employees delivered improved operational performance in 2013, and our customer satisfaction scores increased throughout the year," said Jim Compton, UAL's vice chairman and chief revenue officer. "We are growing our revenue by building on the strengths of our leading route network and leveraging the investments we've made in our fleet, product and technology." (United)

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—Trade ministers from many of the world's biggest economies pledged to broaden a deal to boost global trade Saturday, with the U.S. saying nothing is off-limits for discussion.

At a Swiss-hosted meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, ministers from China, the European Union, Japan, the U.S. and 15 other nations agreed to build on the "positive momentum" of a World Trade Organization summit last December in Bali where the organization's 159 member economies agreed to cut customs red tape.

The ministers agreed to address the most difficult remaining negotiating topics of agriculture, market access and services that eluded an agreement last month in the first WTO deal since the global trade body was formed in 1995, said Swiss Economics Minister Johann Schneider-Ammann, who hosted the meeting.

He said the world economic powers agreed to "promptly" build on the Bali agreement with "a particular focus on issues important to least developing countries."

"In order to be able to successfully tackle these topics, fresh and credible approaches

will be needed," the Swiss minister said.

WTO Director-General Robert Azevedo said negotiating process must be transparent and inclusive, so every member can have a voice and participate, but that "the doability test is very important" in working toward an expanded free-trade deal that balances "ambition and realism."

The Bali deal could boost global trade by \$1 trillion over time, and its centerpiece was an agreement on measures to ease barriers to trade by simplifying customs procedures and making them more transparent.

But it also kept alive hopes of eventually accomplishing the WTO's broader Doha Round of trade negotiations, sometimes known as the development round because of sweeping changes in regulations, taxes and subsidies that would benefit low income countries.

And the deal boosted the Geneva-based WTO's credibility and relevance as a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements and not just as a trade court for international disputes.

U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman told ministers Saturday that "the WTO's

first order of business must be to finish what we started," according to a statement from his office.

"It also means agreeing to a work plan as we seek to identify future opportunities for progress," he told them. "The United States is open-minded and we are willing to consider a discussion on any of the outstanding issues."

Japanese Economics Minister Toshimitsu Metegi said Saturday's discussion focused on "how to go forward with the WTO" while also implementing the red tape-cutting provisions previously agreed to in Bali. Japan, he told reporters, has shown "a considerable amount of flexibility" during the trade talks and hopes the U.S. will be similarly flexible at the negotiating table.

The world's biggest powers in trade have also vowed to craft a global deal on free trade in environmental goods to help fight global warming.

U.S., EU, Chinese and Japanese trade ministers were among the group of developed economies that announced the effort a day earlier. Their statement said the economies would focus on green products, technologies and services that the WTO estimates to be worth \$1.4 trillion.

Nation

Obama looks to big State of the Union speech to jump-start second term

By LESLEY CLARK and ANITA KUMAR
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—Eager to put the past year behind him, President Barack Obama will deliver a State of the Union address Tuesday looking to reinvigorate his presidency.

Obama opens his sixth year with some of the worst job approval ratings since he took office and with a bitterly divided Congress already turning much of its focus to the November election.

The White House will use the high-profile speech to try anew for momentum for the president's agenda—and perhaps his legacy—as he declares 2014 a “year of action” with or without congressional support.

Obama is expected to make the widening income gap between rich and poor a centerpiece of his speech, calling on lawmakers to restore jobless benefits for 1.3 million long-term unemployed Americans, expand

preschool initiatives and boost the federal minimum wage.

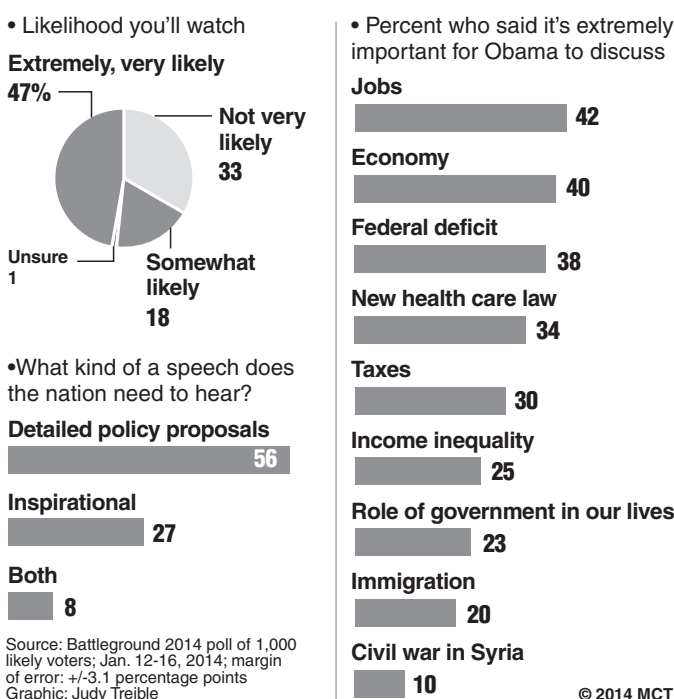
Obama said recently he planned to use the address to “mobilize the country around the national mission of making sure our economy offers every American who works hard a fair shot at success.”

Republicans expect Obama to throw “the kitchen sink” of federal programs in the speech before both chambers of Congress in hopes of firing up the liberal base for this year's congressional elections, said Ron Bonjean, a Republican consultant and former aide in the House of Representatives. “This is all about politics for the elections.”

The White House is taking a campaign-style approach to the speech itself: turning its Instagram account into a photo album of State of the Union preparation, including photos of drafts of the speech and Obama's meetings with speechwriter Cody Keenan. And it announced that he will hold a post-speech “virtual” tour Friday on

Views on Obama's big speech

President Barack Obama will deliver his sixth State of the Union address looking to reinvigorate his presidency. What Americans think about this annual address to the nation:



Google, answering questions from around the country on topics from his speech.

Tens of millions are expected to watch the 9 p.m. EST address, which Obama will deliver from the U.S. Capitol; House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington state, a rising star in her party, will deliver the GOP response.

The president is also expected to defend his signature health care law, sullied by the chaotic website rollout and a broken promise that Americans could keep their insurance plans. Republicans already are campaigning against vulnerable Democrats for supporting the law, but Obama is likely to tout that more than 3 million have successfully signed up.

The speech comes as another debt ceiling limit looms. A rare bipartisan budget deal in December that broke two years

of near-constant budget brinksmanship sparked some optimism, and Obama is expected to call for some congressional compromises.

“It would be taken as a negative sign for the president if he didn't put a reasonably robust legislative agenda out there,” said William Galston, a former policy adviser to President Bill Clinton who's a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a center-left policy research center. “I think he has to push back against the perception that he's given up on anything but administrative action, and he'd be wise to lead with some items where there's evidence of movement toward bipartisanship.”

That could include efforts to boost spending on infrastructure and a rewrite of the nation's immigration laws—an issue Obama has been touting since before he was president but that has stalled in Congress.

Arizona GOP censures McCain for 'liberal' record

PHOENIX (AP)—The Arizona Republican Party formally censured Sen. John McCain on Saturday, citing a voting record they say is insufficiently conservative.

The resolution to censure McCain was approved by a voice-vote during a meeting of state committee members in Tempe, state party spokesman Tim Sifert said. It needed signatures from at least 20 percent of state committee members to reach the floor for debate.



McCain

Sifert said no further action was expected.

McCain spokesman Brian Rogers declined to comment on the censure. But former three-term Sen. Jon Kyl told *The Arizona Republic* that the move was “wacky.”

“I've gone to dozens of these meetings and every now and then some wacky resolution gets passed,” Kyl told the newspaper on Saturday. “But most people realize it does not represent the majority of the vast numbers of Republicans.”

Kyl also said McCain's voting record was “very conservative.”

McCain isn't up for re-election until 2016, when he will turn 80. He announced in October that he was considering running for a sixth term.

According to the resolution, the 2008 Republican

presidential nominee has campaigned as a conservative but has lent his support to issues “associated with liberal Democrats,” such as immigration reform and funding the federal health care law.

Several Republican county committees recently censured McCain.

Timothy Schwartz, the Legislative District 30 Republican chairman who helped write the resolution, said the censure showed that McCain was losing

support from his own party.

“We would gladly embrace Sen. McCain if he stood behind us and represented us,” Schwartz said.

Fred DuVal, a Democrat who plans to run for Arizona governor, called the censure an “outrageous response to the good work Sen. McCain did crafting a reasonable solution to fix our broken immigration system.”

McCain has been dogged by conservatives objecting to his views on immigration and campaign finance, among other issues, since he first ran for Congress in 1982. Republican activists were also turned off by his moderate stances in the 2000 presidential race.

McCain was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982 and won his Senate seat in 1986.

COLUMBIA, Md. (AP)—

A man carrying a shotgun opened fire at a busy shopping mall in suburban Baltimore on Saturday, killing two employees of a skate shop and then himself as panicked shoppers ran for cover, police said. Five others were injured.

Police were still trying to determine the motive of the gunman who killed a man and a woman, both in their 20s, at a skate shop called Zumiez on the upper level of the Mall in Columbia.

Witnesses described hearing gunshots and screams as shoppers ducked into nearby

stores and hid behind locked doors. Many found cover in stockrooms and barricaded themselves until the arrival of police, who searched store to store. By late afternoon, the mall had been cleared of shoppers and employees.

Howard County Police Chief William J. McMahon said at a news conference that authorities had difficulty identifying the gunman because of concerns he was carrying explosives and were proceeding with an “abundance of caution.” By late Saturday, police said they had tentatively identified the gunman but declined

to release his name while they followed up on leads.

“We do not know yet what caused the shooting incident,” he said. “We do not have a motive.”

A news release Saturday night said that police found and disabled “two crude devices that appeared to be an attempt at making explosives using fireworks.” Police said they found the devices Saturday night.

Police were searching the mall with dogs overnight, which is standard procedure, and the mall was to remain closed Sunday.

Someone called 911 at around 11:15 a.m. to report a shooting at the mall. Police responded to the scene within 2 minutes and found three people dead—including the apparent gunman near a gun and ammunition—either inside or outside the shop, which sells skateboards, clothing and accessories. McMahon said police were confident there was a single gunman.

Police identified the victims as 21-year-old Brianna Benlolo of College Park, Md., and 25-year-old Tyler Johnson of Ellicott City, Md. Both worked at Zumiez.



Shoppers are evacuated by police after a shooting at The Mall in Columbia on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014, in Columbia, Md.

Asia

PH, Muslim rebels clinch peace deal



AP
Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, front left, chairperson of Philippine Government Peace Panel, and Mohagher Iqbal, front right, chief negotiator for the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), exchange signed documents as Malaysian facilitator Abdul Ghafar Tengku Mohamed, front center, witnesses after the 43rd GPH-MILF Exploratory Talks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Philippine government and the country's largest Muslim rebel group completed talks Saturday on a deal to end four decades of fighting that has killed tens of thousands of people and helped foster Islamic extremism in Southeast Asia.

The accord between Filipino negotiators and the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front calls for Muslim self-rule in parts of the southern Philippines in exchange for the deactivation of the rebel force. Military presence in the proposed autonomous region would be restricted.

Much now will depend on how the accord is enforced, in particular whether the 11,000-strong rebel forces are able to maintain security in areas that would come under their control. At least four other smaller Muslim rebel groups are still fighting Manila's rule in the southern Mindanao region, and could act as spoilers.

Officials from both sides announced the conclusion of talks in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, which has brokered the years-long negotiations. The accord and three other pacts signed last year make up a final peace agreement that is to be signed in the Philippine capital, Manila, possibly next month, presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said.

"This will give the just and lasting peace that our brothers in Mindanao are seeking," said Lacierda, referring to the volatile southern region and homeland of minority Muslims in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

Chief government negotiator Miriam Ferrer said that concluding the talks "marks the beginning of the bigger challenge ahead, which is the ... implementation."

Saturday's accord has been the most significant progress

made over 13 years of negotiations to tame a tenacious insurgency that has left more than 120,000 people dead and derailed development in Muslim-populated southern regions that are among the most destitute in the Philippines.

The United States and other governments have supported the talks, worried that rebel strongholds could become breeding grounds for al-Qaida-linked extremists who have sought sanctuary in the region in the past.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating both sides "for concluding negotiations toward an historic, comprehensive peace agreement."

"The agreement offers the promise of peace, security, and economic prosperity now and for future generations in Mindanao," Kerry said.

Under the peace deal, the Moro insurgents agreed to end violence in exchange for broader autonomy. An existing five-province Muslim autonomous region is to be replaced by a more powerful, better-funded and potentially larger region to be called Bangsamoro.

Despite the milestone, both the government and the rebels acknowledged that violence would not end overnight in a region that has long grappled with a volatile mix of crushing poverty, huge numbers of illegal firearms, clan wars and weak law enforcement.

One rebel group vowed to keep fighting.

"We will continue the struggle," said Abu Misri, spokesman of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement, which broke off from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front three years ago. "What we want is an Islamic state, an Islamic people, an Islamic constitution," he told

The Associated Press by telephone Saturday.

Rebels from another group, the Moro National Liberation Front, took scores of hostages in September when they seized coastal communities in southern Zamboanga city after accusing the government of reneging on its commitments under a 1996 autonomy deal. Thousands of troops ended the 10-day uprising with a major offensive that killed more than 200 people, most of them insurgents.

The accord Saturday outlined the gradual "decommissioning" of the rebel forces, some of whom could be absorbed into a regional security force. Another pact concluded involved the extent of control the proposed autonomous region would wield over resource-rich waters like the Sulu Sea.

Chief rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said the latest accord "is the most sensitive, emotional and, as far as I know, it entails a lot of sacrifices on the part of the (rebels) because to pay for real peace in Mindanao we have to decommission our forces."

He said their weapons will be "put beyond use" under an arrangement to be overseen by an International Decommissioning Body.

Evan Jendruck from the IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre said the success of the new peace agreement hinges on the ability of the former Moro insurgents to put other armed groups under control. While the military would still have a presence in the new autonomous region, security would basically be in the hands of a Bangsamoro force composed of former insurgents.

"Will MILF be able to fill the power vacuum? If they don't do that, then the peace process won't go forward," Jendruck said.

World

Kiev protesters attack govt building with police inside

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—New violence erupted in Ukraine's capital during the night as a large crowd attacked a government exposition and conference hall where police were stationed inside.

Early Sunday, demonstrators were throwing firebombs into the Ukrainian House building and setting off fireworks, and police responded with tear gas. Although the crowd created a corridor at the building's entrance apparently for police to leave, none were seen coming out.

The outburst underlined a growing inclination for

radical actions in the protest movement that has gripped Kiev for two months. The building under attack is about 250 meters (yards) down the street from Independence Square, where mostly peaceful demonstrations have been held around the clock since early December and where protesters have set up an extensive tent camp.

Clashes with police broke out a week ago in the wake of new, harsh anti-protest laws.

More-moderate opposition figures, including heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko, have tried appeal-

ing to stop the clashes, but have been booed, and one time Klitschko was sprayed with a fire-extinguisher.

Another top opposition figure, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, said Saturday that the protests will continue despite the offer by embattled President Viktor Yanukovich to make him prime minister.

The protests began in Kiev after Yanukovich shelved a long-awaited trade pact with the European Union in favor of securing a bailout loan from Russia, and boiled over into violence a week ago over the new anti-protest laws.



AP
A protester throws a Molotov cocktail toward riot police during a clash in central Kiev, Ukraine, Saturday Jan. 25, 2014.

Total of 32 believed dead in Quebec fire

L'ISLE-VERTE, Quebec (AP)—Crews pulled just two more bodies from the ice-covered rubble of a Quebec retirement home on the third day of the excruciating search, bringing to 10 the number of confirmed dead from a massive fire. The effort to recover another 22 people presumed killed will resume Sunday morning.

The cause of Thursday's blaze in the small town of L'Isle-Verte remains under in-

vestigation. There were media reports that the fire began in the room of a resident who was smoking a cigarette, but police said Saturday that was just one possibility among many.

"It could be a cigarette, it could be a small heater, it could be an electrical problem," Police Lt. Michel Brunet said at a news conference. "We have to be sure at 100 percent."

"We're going to take the time we need," he added.

Frigid temperatures continued

to hamper the search. Quebec Police Lt. Guy Lapointe said the ice in certain places was as thick as 60 centimeters (two feet).

Search teams brought in equipment normally used to de-ice ships that pushes out very hot air.

"You can imagine how difficult it is to go through the ice, melt it, and do it in a way that we preserve the integrity of potential victims," Lapointe said. "So it's very difficult work again today. It's very cold."

Official: French president splits with first lady

PARIS (AP)—French President Francois Hollande has split with the country's first lady two weeks after a tabloid reported that the leader was having an affair with an actress, an official said Saturday.

A presidential aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the matter, confirmed that Hollande ended his seven-year relationship with Valerie Trierweiler.

The breakup was first reported by French news agency Agence France Presse, which said Hollande told it in a telephone conversation Saturday evening that "I make it known that I have put an end" to the relationship with Trierweiler.

Hollande, who has four children with former presidential candidate Segolene Royal, told the news agency that he was speaking in a personal capacity and not as head of state.

He and Trierweiler have lived together since 2007, and while they're unmarried, Trierweiler occupied the so-called madame wing of the presidential palace, traveled abroad with Hollande and functioned as the first lady.

Hollande had dodged questions about Trierweiler's status since a Jan. 14 news conference at which he refused to say whether the 48-year-old journalist was still the first lady.

Health & Fitness

Bird flu spikes in China ahead of Lunar New Year

A spate of bird flu cases since the beginning of the year in China has experts watching closely as millions of people and poultry are on the move ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday, the world's largest annual human migration.

China has reported more than 50 H7N9 infections in 2014 after the strain jumped from birds to people for the first time last year. The virus remains hard to catch and most cases have been linked to contact with poultry, but scientists worry that could change if it mutates into a form that allows it to spread easily among people.

For those who track influenza, the holiday, which begins Jan. 31, is always worrying because it comes during the winter months when flu typically rages. Add that to hundreds of millions of people—and often birds—crammed together on buses and other forms of transportation going home, and it's always a bit of a gamble. China estimates 3.6 billion trips will be taken over the holiday season.

"This is the first winter we've seen H7N9. We are in uncharted territory," said Gregory Hartl, World Health Organization spokesman in Geneva. "We



In this Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014 photo, a vendor picks chickens at a wholesale poultry market in Shanghai.

have seen an upstart in cases, which we are attributing basically to the fact that it's winter. That combined with a lot of movement of people in crowded trains with chickens could give rise to a lot more infections, but we've also seen in past years where it hasn't."

The first H7N9 cases were reported in late March near Shanghai, and more than 200 others have since been iden-

tified, including some 50 deaths. A 31-year-old doctor became one of the latest fatalities, raising fears he may have been infected at the hospital where he worked, but none of his patients or other close contacts have reported flu symptoms, according to the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Health and Family Planning.

There have been a handful of family

clusters, but WHO says no sustained human-to-human transmission has occurred. However, scientists warn that the H7N9 virus contains genetic markers that could help it infect mammals easier than other avian flus. Infected birds also do not show symptoms, making it harder to track the disease. Cases declined in China over the summer, which is typically slower for influenza viruses, after some local live poultry markets were

temporarily closed.

In Hong Kong, which has logged three cases, officials will test all poultry for the virus beginning later this week. Taiwan has reported two cases.

In past years, it was the H5N1 bird flu virus that spiked during this time of year. That strain, which has killed at least 386 people since 2003, is still circulating widely in poultry stocks and kills about 60 percent of the people it infects.

Subway joins first lady's healthy eating effort

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michelle Obama has a new partner in her campaign to get kids to eat more fruits and vegetables.

The Subway sandwich chain will spend \$41 million over three years to encourage them to eat more food that doesn't come from a box, the first lady announced Thursday at one of the Connecticut-based company's restaurants just north of the White House.

Subway will also offer a kids' menu that mirrors federal standards for school lunches, including offering apples on the side and low-fat or nonfat plain milk or water as a default beverage.

Speaking as a parent, Mrs. Obama said Subway's commitment will help moms and dads choose healthy food for their kids. Its kids' menu will help eliminate the worry some parents feel about the choices they have to make when eating out, she said.

"Every single item on the kids' menu meets the highest nutrition standards," the first lady said before she went to the counter and ordered a turkey on whole wheat bread with spinach, peppers, and oil and vinegar dressing. She paid the \$4.40 tab with a \$20 bill and scarfed down her lunch while chatting with a group of local elementary school students who had been invited for the announcement.

Some of Subway's famous celebrity endorsers also were present, including Olympians Nastia Lukin, who prepared Mrs. Obama's sandwich, and Michael Phelps, along with New York Giants defensive end Justin Tuck and Jared Fogle. Fogle gained fame in a series of TV commercials years ago in which he described losing 245 pounds while eating a steady diet of Subway sandwiches, plus walking.

Subway's commitment is "a natural extension of what we do," Tony Pace, Subway's chief marketing officer, said in a telephone interview. The chain of-



Obama (Please

fers a line of lean-meat and vegetable sandwiches that have been certified by the American Heart Association, as well as a trio of breakfast sandwiches with fewer than 200 calories apiece.

Pace said people are becoming more aware of the importance of eating healthier.

Subway's announcement follows

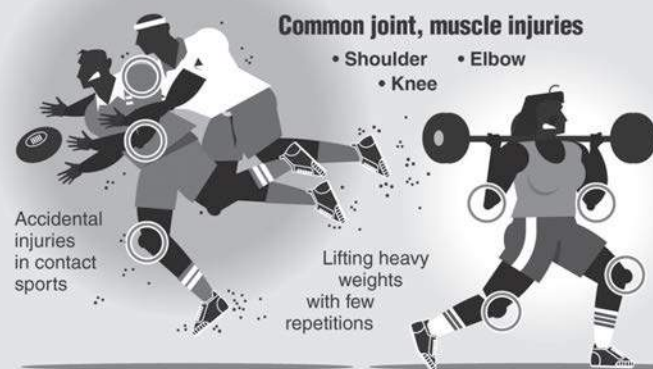
a summit on food marketing to kids that Mrs. Obama held at the White House last fall. At the time, she urged food and beverage makers, media and entertainment companies, and others to do more to promote healthier foods to children.

A month after the September gathering, Mrs. Obama announced that the nonprofit organization that produces TV's "Sesame Street" had agreed to let the produce industry use Elmo, Big Bird and its other furry characters free of charge in its kid-focused advertising.

Personal Trainer

Warning to 'weekend warriors'

Trying to pack a week's worth of sports and exercise into Saturday and Sunday sets up many "weekend warriors" for injury.



Does not improve fitness

None of these increase significantly if two-day workouts are followed by five sedentary days

- Strength
- Flexibility
- Endurance



© 2014 MCT

Escaping the weekend syndrome

Get at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity every day

- Playing with children
- Working in garden
- Walking dog
- Taking stairs instead of riding elevator

Source: Dr. Kevin Plancher, WebMD; American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

† Andresina Chong Villagomez

June 06, 1937 – January 20, 2014

In her new life, she now joins her:
Husband: Herman Tenorio Villagomez
Daughter: Antonia Chong Villagomez
Parents: Jesus Lujan and Josepha Santos Chong
Parents-in-Law: Jesus Sema and Joaquina Tenorio Villagomez
Maternal Grandmother: Rita Camacho Santos
Paternal Grandparents: Jose and Maria L. Chong
Brother: Ramon Santos Chong
In-Laws: Dr. Jose Tenorio Villagomez, Francisco Tenorio Villagomez, and Manuel Tenorio Villagomez
Maternal Aunts & Uncles: Maria S. and Ignacio Matagolai, Juan C. and Maria P. Santos
Paternal Aunts & Uncles: Dr. Jose L. and Ramona S. Chong, Ernesta C. and Lorenzo Ayuyu, Manuel L. and Esperansa C. Chong, Joaquin L. and Ana T. Chong

She is survived by:
Children:
Jesus C. and Jolina Villagomez
Joseph C. and Emma S. Villagomez (Edmund, Eulalia, Edwin)
Rita C. Villagomez (Herman and Risha (Leahavani Andresina and Herman Leslie), Juanette and Richard (Vicente Ramon))
Francisco C. and Shirley M. Villagomez (Francisco Dennis)
Josepha C. and Luis Mendiola (Katherine, Frank Herman, Serena, Joseph, Patrick)
Ramon C. Villagomez
Brothers & In-Laws:
Francisco S. and Estefania C. Chong and Family
Victorino S. and Esther S. Chong and Family
Luis Santos Chong
Rita P. Villagomez and Family
Marylou C. Villagomez and Family
Paternal Aunts:
Thomasa C. and Luis Camacho and Family
Emilia C. and Miguel Sablan and Family

She is additionally survived by aunts, uncles, numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated each weekday evening at 6:00 p.m. at Saint Jude Church followed immediately by the Holy Rosary. On Saturday, January 25, 2014, Mass will be offered at 7:00 a.m. followed immediately by the Holy Rosary. On Sunday, January 26, 2014, Mass will be at 8:00 a.m. and Holy Rosary will be at 6:00 p.m.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. Her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home at 9:30 a.m. to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts, presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

Life & Style

Cuaron wins Directors Guild prize for 'Gravity'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alfonso Cuarón has won the top film honor from the Directors Guild of America for "Gravity," giving his space saga an edge on the journey to the Academy Awards.

Saturday's prize makes Cuarón a near shoo-in to win the best director Oscar on March 2. The Directors Guild recipient nearly always goes on to claim the same prize on Hollywood's biggest night.

Coming out of the recent flurry of Hollywood honors, David O. Russell's con caper "American Hustle," Steve McQueen's historical epic "12 Years a Slave" and "Gravity" are competing in

the tightest three-way Oscar race in years.

In the 65-year history of the DGA awards, the winner has failed to also take home the best director Oscar just seven times.

Dempsey confirms extension with 'Grey's Anatomy'



Driver Patrick Dempsey laughs with other drivers in the Fanzone area during an autograph session prior to the start of the IMSA Series Rolex 24 hour auto race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014.

confirmed Saturday night that he has signed a two-year contract extension to continue with the popular television series "Grey's Anatomy." The show has not officially been picked up beyond its 10th season, but Dempsey's deal provides a strong indication that it will be back.

Dempsey also plans to run a full season in the United Sports-Car Championship.

Dempsey said the acting gig has been a huge help to his other full-time job. Dempsey and co-driver Andrew Davis are racing 13 events—which would be the actor's first full season.

He said his TV bosses do "a remarkable job scheduling around these races now, and I wouldn't be able to do it without them. The fact that they continue to let me race is remarkable in itself, so I am grateful for that and grateful to have employment that is known around the world. It gives me a platform to come and do this type of thing, and it helps the sponsors. I'm lucky to have the gig."

When the 48-year-old Dempsey was asked whether he's had any thoughts about giving up acting for racing, he said, "When I grow up, I want to race full time."

Madonna to perform at the Grammy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's official: Madonna will perform at the Grammy Awards.

A Friday news release from The Recording Academy had no other details about the seven-time Grammy winner's appearance, however, which has been a rumor for some time.

Also added to the performance lineup are nominees Miranda Lambert and Billie Joe Armstrong. They will sing a tribute to the late Phil Everly of The Everly Brothers. Juicy J and Trombone Shorty have also been added to the roster.

They'll join a star-studded



Madonna

lineup that includes most of today's top pop stars and leading nominees Jay Z, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, Pharrell Williams and Kendrick Lamar.

The 56th annual Grammy Awards hosted by LL Cool J will air live Sunday night from the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Leno says no return to late-night after 'Tonight'



In this Aug. 6, 2013 file photo, President Barack Obama, left, talks with Jay Leno during a commercial break during the taping of his appearance on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jay Leno says he doesn't plan to tackle another late-night show after leaving NBC's "Tonight" next month.

In an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" airing Sunday, Leno said he can't re-create what he had as "Tonight" host with another show.

Leno said his 22-year run was "fantastic."

The comedian steps down as

"Tonight" host on Feb. 6. Billy Crystal will join Leno for his farewell broadcast in Burbank.

Jimmy Fallon takes over as host on Feb. 17 in the new home city for "Tonight"—New York.

Leno praised his successor, comparing him to a young Johnny Carson. Asked if he'd prefer to stay with "Tonight," Leno said that it's "nice to keep working," according to "60 Minutes."

Celebrate girl's big birthday without spending big bucks



DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old girl going on 15. I am half-Mexican. In the Mexican culture, a girl's 15th birthday is the year in which she becomes a woman. Most girls have a "quinceanera" party for this birthday. But these celebrations cost a lot of money—almost as much as a wedding.

I have been debating whether or not I should have one. My mom says she would rather put the money toward my college

fund. I agree with her, but I also feel like I should acknowledge my Mexican background as much as I do the Caucasian part. I don't want to pressure my parents, but I also don't want to be left out when my friends talk about their quinceaneras. What do you think? -- PARTY OR NOT IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PARTY OR NOT: A quinceanera may cost almost as much as a wedding, but there are weddings for every budget. We have all heard of families who have gone into debt to finance a wedding, but I never advise readers to go into debt for something like that.

If your primary reason for wanting a quinceanera is so you won't feel left out of the conversation when friends talk about theirs, consider a small celebration with some of your girlfriends. That way your college fund won't be depleted, and you'll spend fewer years paying off student loans.

One of my friends, Fabiola, told me that some godmothers ("madrinas") help to defray the cost of a quinceanera. There can be a godmother for the cake, another for the dress, etc. But she also told me that although her mother insisted she have a quinceanera, in thinking back about it, she wishes she'd had that money for college. There are other ways to celebrate your Mexican heritage than spending a lot of money, so please give this some serious thought.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I just learned that my unborn child is a boy. Some people tell me that it's harder to raise a baby boy, but others tell me differently. I don't know who to believe anymore. I am only five months pregnant and already feeling stressed. -- 19 AND CONFUSED

DEAR 19 AND CONFUSED: Your pregnancy and subsequent motherhood will be 100 percent easier if you stop listening to people who relish putting negative thoughts in the heads of others. If you want RELIABLE information about raising your little boy, the person to get it from is your pediatrician.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I saw your Christmas column in which you included a note to all your Christian readers, and frankly I found it a little rude. Not only Christian people celebrate Christmas; many of us celebrate it as a secular holiday, a time to celebrate the love and joy in our lives and our family (both blood relatives and the people we make our family).

I don't recall you wishing a Happy Hanukkah, a Blessed Ramadan or a Happy Yule to your Jewish, Muslim and Pagan readers (although I may have missed it). I'm not usually one to care about such things, but since people from all walks of life come to you for advice, it would be nice to see you reach out to all of your readers. -- HAPPY PAGAN CHICK IN DENVER

DEAR HAPPY PAGAN CHICK: You must not be a regular reader if you miss all of my holiday greetings. It has long been my practice to offer good wishes to my readers during the major holidays. This includes greetings to my Christian readers at Easter and Christmas, my Jewish readers at Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, and my Muslim readers when the fast of Ramadan is broken.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP)—Patrick Dempsey's acting and racing careers will be intermingled for the foreseeable

future.

Dempsey, a driver/owner racing in the Rolex 24 at Daytona endurance event this weekend,

Thicke, Lorde perform at Universal Music brunch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Universal Music Group celebrated its domination on the charts with an event featuring its top acts, including Robin Thicke and Lorde.

The music corporation, the parent company to labels like Interscope, Def Jam and Republic Records, held an ultra-exclusive brunch honoring Chairman and CEO Lucian Grainge at Lure in Los Angeles.

Thicke closed the event with a rich performance of "Dreamworld" and he put the crowd into a party mood when he sang "Blurred Lines," which is nominated for record of the year at Sunday's Grammy Awards.

The 36-year-old crooner told the nearly 300 people in the audience that he has been "signed to Universal since I was 16 years."

"Thanks to everyone for all the hard work and the amazing success," added Thicke, who has won Grammys for writing songs for Usher and Jennifer Hudson.

Lorde, whose "Royals" will compete with "Blurred Lines" for top record, sang her No. 1 hit and new Top 10 hit, "Team," in her signature black. "Royals" is also nominated for song of the year.

At one point last year, UMG held all 10 spots on the Top 10

of Billboard's Hot 100 chart. Artists on its labels include Taylor Swift, Kendrick Lamar, Katy Perry and Imagine Dragons—nominees for major awards at the Grammys. Eminem, Justin Bieber, Rihanna, Drake and Lady Gaga are also signed to UMG.

R&B-pop singer Ariana Grande was a vocal powerhouse when she performed two songs, including the multi-platinum success "The Way" and the ballad "Tattooed Heart." Country singer-songwriter Kacey Musgraves, a best new artist nominee, impressed, as did Aloe Blacc, the voice behind the Avicii hit "Wake Me Up."

"If it wasn't for music, I didn't know what I'd do. I don't know what you would do either," Blacc said to laughs from the crowd of music industry workers.

Other performers included Latin dynamo Juanes, gospel singer Tye Tribbett and electronic DJ-producer Zedd, who debuted a new song called "Find You," featuring Matthew Koma and Miriam Bryant.

The event also featured some of the label's rising stars, including English rocker Jake Bugg, progressive R&B singer Jhene Aiko, alternative singer BANKS and recent "The Voice" winner Tessanne Chin.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

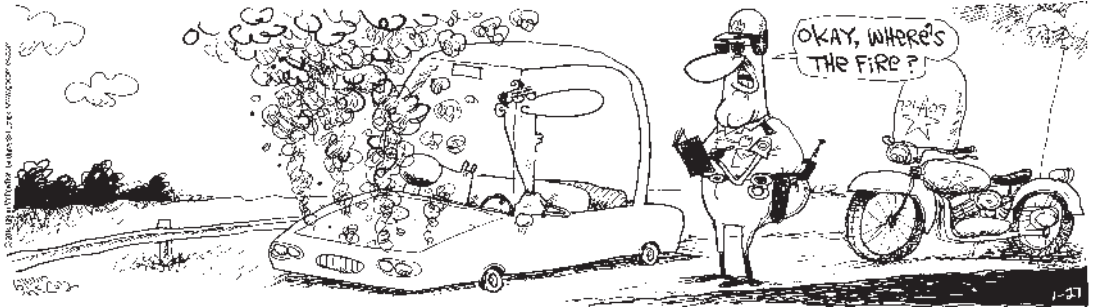


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Martian carrier? **43** Scratch **46** Does the job **50** Still hadn't paid **53** Finish **55** Retain **56** Volcanic outflow **57** Knight's address **58** Always drawn **59** Horse-drawn wagon **60** Pigpen **61** Crafty

DOWN

1 — Major **2** Dossier **3** Burden **4** — carte **5** Mark of left **6** Purplish flower **7** Tennis shot **8** "A mouse!" **9** Pitch **10** Hot tub **12** February 2 **19** Third degree? (Abbr.) **21** Feathery accessory **23** Nourished **25** Hairdo **26** Language of Pakistan **27** Stagger **28** Spill the beans **29** Weak, as an excuse **30** Russian river **31** Cartoonist **35** Jewel **38** Lucy of "Elementary" **40** Logger's tool **42** Lock **45** One engine **47** Guns the back-bone **49** Agile **50** Anti-quoted **51** Sherman called it hell **52** Actress Mendes **54** Parched

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 1-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patton Oswalt, 45; Alan Cumming, 49; Bridget Fonda, 50; Cris Collinsworth, 55.

Happy Birthday: A positive change will help you put the past behind you. Greater opportunity will come as you explore your talents and use your knowledge to help you gain the confidence of others. This is a year to flourish, be your best and reach your goals. Don't let insecurity hold you back. Your numbers are 7, 13, 19, 22, 25, 31, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take pride in what you do and aim to be proactive when it comes to making decisions and doing your best to help others. Take charge and use persuasive tactics to ensure that you get what you want and prosper emotionally and financially. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put greater emphasis on who you are and what you can do for others. Learn from past encounters and mistakes and you will reach whatever destination you choose with fewer obstacles. Put love, romance and personal matters first. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Discuss your goals or options with colleagues or someone who may be able to help you advance. Good fortune will be yours if you show greater interest in a project. Charm coupled with a heart-to-heart talk will bring good results. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Relationships are featured. Do your best to share your feelings and to secure your personal connection to someone special. Make personal

changes that will encourage compliments and boost your confidence. Romance is on the rise and plans should be initiated. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be upfront about your intentions and plans. Check out your options and ask questions. Clear up any confusion that may be standing between you and a decision you are expected to make. Don't let someone's lack of support sway you. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are overdue for a little fun, pampering or anything else that will add to your comfort and pleasure. Love is in the stars, and making plans with someone special will help you make an important personal decision. Avoid impulsive spending. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Protect your home, family and future. Listen carefully and observe how others react. Use your head and think matters through. Look for a unique way to handle any difficult matter that arises and you will bypass a setback. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): React cautiously. Let your intuition guide and protect you from anyone trying to manipulate a conversation or situation. Use the experience you have gained in the past. A trip will prove to be beneficial and enhance your personal life. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A quick reaction will help you maneuver into a prime position. Using the element of surprise will help you avert a deceptive ploy to take advantage of you. Keep your emotions in check and stay in front of the competition. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on your goals, not on what others are up to. Feeling pressured or trying to keep up with someone who is unpredictable is a waste of time. Base your actions on facts and reason. Common sense will win out in the end. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your intuition to the test. Make changes based on the way you feel and you will find a way to get ahead emotionally and financially. A good idea must not be allowed to expand too quickly. What you do must be durable. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's what you do to make amends or help others that will make a difference to the outcome of a situation you face. Good things come to those who wait. Bide your time and do things properly the first time around. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are confident, innovative and challenging. You are quick, curious and playful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1			4				2		
	8	4					1	5	
	5			1	2		4		
9			1	4			5		
			7	2	5	8	9		
		5		9	6			3	
	7		5	8			9		
4		2					8	5	
	3				9				1

Difficulty Level ★

1/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

7	6	3	2	8	9	1	5	4
5	9	4	3	6	1	2	7	8
1	2	8	7	4	5	6	3	9
9	3	1	8	7	2	5	4	6
8	5	6	9	1	4	7	2	3
4	7	2	6	5	3	9	8	1
2	8	7	1	3	6	4	9	5
3	1	5	4	9	7	8	6	2
6	4	9	5	2	8	3	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/27

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PEACH-COLORED ROSES

Solution: 10 letters

R	Y	L	L	E	J	A	M	E	G	R	A	L	B	C
E	S	B	U	R	H	S	L	A	P	E	S	A	E	O
T	F	O	S	G	N	I	N	A	E	M	R	N	A	R
A	S	C	H	A	R	M	I	N	G	R	T	D	U	S
W	C	I	T	N	A	M	O	R	A	E	C	S	T	A
O	E	V	O	L	O	C	A	N	R	S	C	I	G	
O	N	F	O	D	C	T	G	P	D	T	A	F	E	
D	T	N	E	A	I	E	I	E	E	N	H	P	U	R
Y	G	S	S	T	M	E	S	M	N	A	O	E	L	U
R	T	I	U	E	C	I	S	I	E	R	R	S	N	T
Y	O	D	N	E	R	O	D	S	H	G	N	E	B	A
N	E	T	S	E	I	G	N	I	V	A	S	V	L	M
H	S	U	B	L	N	U	R	S	E	R	Y	A	U	I
S	D	U	B	L	O	S	S	O	M	F	R	E	S	H
W	O	H	S	D	E	E	S	R	E	Y	A	L	H	P

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Arrangements, Art, Beautiful, Blossom, Blush, Buds, Bush, Centerpieces, Charming, Corsage, Cream, Desire, Fragrant, Fresh, Garden, Gratitude, Jam, Jelly, Landscapes, Large, Layers, Leaves, Long, Love, Mature, Meanings, Modesty, Nursery, Occasion, Romantic, Saving, Scent, Seeds, Sepals, Show, Shrubs, Soft, Soil, Stems, Thorns, Water, Woody

Last Friday's Answer: Marinade
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit wonderword.universalclic.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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WHATZIT Solution: Snakes and ladders

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ladders

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- (3) PLUMBER
- (3) CARPENTER
- (3) MASON

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GENERAL MECHANIC (1) – Minimum of 5 years professional experience as general mechanic, repairs and maintains physical structures of the facility, repairs of vehicles, office machines and equipments, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, air condition, and all other equipments of the company. Rate: \$5.55 to \$ 7.50/hr.

Interested applicants can mail their resume at P.O. Box 7688 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 or may email to saipan@americopters.com. No phone calls please.

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Minimum 1 year of work experience handling clerical work involved with receiving, storing, stocking, inventory and distribution of supplies for the Boutiki store. Must have good computer skills and have the ability to bend, lift, carry, push, reach and handle inventory supplies weighing 50-75 pounds. Must have the ability to speak, read and comprehend the English language. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
A copy of valid police clearance (less than 6 months old) must be attached to the application.
Skills testing may be required for some positions. PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
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REM LOWERBASE
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Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
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235-6527/28 or 285-1317

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2-BR, 1-BTH. **\$350-\$550/month.** Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

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Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill)
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
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LNH Apartments
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235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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(2) Waiter/Waitress, \$5.55/hr, send resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950.

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- One (1) Team leader – Must have the ability to communicate, trust, respect, acceptance to the nature of the job. Must have the experience in AX system cash register, good in numbers and can be able to read and write in English. Good attendance is a must and can be flexible with schedules. Must be a trainer and be able to carry out the policies and procedures.
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
JUDICIAL BRANCH

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PUBLICATIONS CLERK & ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The successful candidate will work under the Executive Director of the Law Revision Commission / General Counsel for the Judicial Branch on Saipan. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs a full range of secretarial and administrative support duties for the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Receives and screens visitors and callers; responds to inquiries and/or directs them to the appropriate authority; places calls and e-mail messages on behalf of the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Performs duties of a highly confidential nature;
- Coordinates and arranges meetings and appointments for the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Establishes and maintains a calendar for the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Transcribes meeting minutes from written notes and/or audio recordings;
- Coordinates and assists the Executive Director/General Counsel with special projects;
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COMPENSATION: This position is exempt from civil service. The salary will be \$18,500 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, resumes, proof of high school graduation, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI may be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
RFQ14-GOV-028



Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting statements of qualification (SOQ) from licensed architectural and engineering firms (A&E) for the Design of the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The full Request for Qualifications (RFQ) documents may be obtained by contacting Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, by telephone at (670) 664-2274 or by email at psas@saipan.com. All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 pm, January 17, 2014 to Mr. Sasamoto by facsimile at (670) 664-2279.

The design and construction of the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project is made possible by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. All element of the construction process shall meet standards of EDA. The EDA grant is matched by a grant from the Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA), U.S. Department of the Interior and requires a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance.

One original and four (4) copies shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 PM, (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014.**

The SOQ shall be marked “**Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project, RFQ14-GOV-028**”. For firms within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014.** Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or email procurement@pticom.com. For firms located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 5, 2014** AND must be received no later than **February 14, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all SOQ and to waive any imperfections in any SOQ if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All SOQ shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
TRUCKS WITH DUMP BODIES
RFP14-GOV-042

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude Hofschneider, are soliciting competitive sealed proposals according to the requirements of N.M.I.A.C. § 70-30.3-210 from qualified vendors to provide dump trucks for use on the Islands of Tinian and Rota. Proposals are to include costs associated with: equipment; training; and delivery to the Islands of Tinian and Rota as identified in the specifications. Trucks proposed must be similar to type identified in the scope of work. The Commonwealth is relying on the expertise of vendors in the selection of most appropriate equipment for use in the proposed operations. The specific pieces of equipment sought are two medium duty dump trucks with a 5-7 cu yard medium duty dump body & hoist. Although equipment is to be used primarily in hauling landfill cover, they will also be used in assorted activities of municipal operations, thus the Commonwealth is seeking flexibility in the type of equipment. Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a possible 100 points based on the following factors:

Element	Points
Price and appropriateness of proposed equipment;	50 points
Dealer experience and ability to meet needs of the Islands of Tinian and Rota.	50 points

All proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination as identified in NMIAC § 70-30.3-245 (“Responsibility Determination”) which will evaluate whether the vendor has experience and resources for the required financing, delivery, and warranty. Proposals from parties who fail to meet the requirements of the Responsibility Determination will not be considered. Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and must follow the proposal structure as identified in the proposal packet that can be obtained from the Office of Procurement & Supply. Proposal packets will be available on January 6, 2014 (ChST) at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill (670-664-2375). Proposals must pay particular attention to the preferred identified equipment specification and use this as a guide in submission of proposals. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 17, 2014 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408). Prospective bidders bear responsibility for proper transmission and receipt of submitted questions.

The selected vendor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and Federal laws. All proposals must be in a sealed envelope or container and marked "RFP14-GOV-042Dump Truck Proposal" on the exterior and include an original and four copies. Proposals must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday February 7, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Proposers bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact Carl Castro at the Office of Capital Improvement (670) 664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Chandler, Nuggets end 3-game skid, beat Pacers



DENVER (AP)—Wilson Chandler scored a season-high 25 points and the Denver Nuggets snapped a three-game losing streak by beating the Indiana Pacers 109-96 Saturday night. Nate Robinson and Timofey Mozgov added 15 points apiece. First-year Nuggets coach Brian Shaw won in his first matchup against Indiana since leaving his job as a Pacers assistant to come to Denver.

J.J. Hickson had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Lance Stephenson scored 23 for Indiana. The Pacers split a road back-to-back set after winning the night before in Sacramento.

Paul George added 18 points and David West 16 for the Pacers, who lost for the eighth time in nine trips to Denver.

Trailing by 19 at halftime, the Pacers got back in the game in a hurry, opening the third quarter with a 16-3 run in which Stephenson had seven of his points.

The Nuggets responded with a 7-0 burst late in the third that helped them take a 10-point lead into the fourth quarter.

Roy Hibbert, who was held to five points, became the second Pacers player to foul out after drawing his sixth foul with 3:19 remaining. Still, the Pacers pulled to 101-94 when Stephenson made a pair of free throws with 3:14 left. But the Nuggets wouldn't let the Pacers finish off the comeback, getting five straight points on free throws, including a pair from the foul line on technicals on David West and Pacers coach Frank Vogel.

The Pacers managed one more basket down the stretch but that was more than offset by Hickson's emphatic dunk with 1:09 remaining, the final points of the game.

Denver was up 22-18 after the first quarter and began the second with an 11-0 run highlighted by a pair of 3-pointers by Robinson.

Thunder 103, 76ers 91

In Philadelphia, Kevin Durant had 32 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists in his return from a shoulder injury to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to their seventh straight win, over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Durant was scratched against Boston on Friday with a sprained right shoulder. Against the Sixers, he was one of the first Thunder players to hit the court for pre-game warmups. He dunked several times, even hanging on the rim for several seconds after one, and was fit to play.

The 12-win Sixers trimmed Oklahoma City's lead to four in the third quarter before

Durant keyed a 14-5 run to open a comfortable lead. The NBA's leading scorer has reached at least 30 points in his last 10 games.

Serge Ibaka had 25 points and 11 rebounds for the Thunder. James Anderson led the Sixers with 19 points.

Clippers 126, Raptors 118

In Toronto, Jamal Crawford had a season-high 37 points and 11 assists, and Los Angeles overcame Terrence Ross' 51 points to beat Toronto.

Ross matched Vince Carter's franchise record set 14 years ago and nearly doubled his previous career high of 26 points against Portland on Jan. 2, 2013.

The second-year guard shot 10 of 17 from 3-point range and 9 for 10 at the free throw line. But he missed his final foul shot with 4 seconds left, failing to top the 51 points Carter scored in a 103-102 win over Phoenix on Feb. 27, 2000.

Blake Griffin scored 30 points and J.J. Redick had 18 as the Clippers won for the 10th time in 13 games and snapped a four-game skid in Toronto. Los Angeles improved to 8-3 without star guard Chris Paul, sidelined with a separated shoulder.

DeMar DeRozan went out with a sprained left foot, and the Raptors lost for the first time in three games.

Bulls 89, Bobcats 87

In Charlotte, North Carolina, D.J. Augustin scored 15 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and Chicago held off Charlotte to get back above .500.

The former Bobcats point guard shot 4 of 5 from the field in the fourth quarter, making a trio of 3-pointers, to help break open a tight game. The Bulls (22-21) have won 10 of 13.

Joakim Noah had 11 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for the Bulls, who have won 10 of their last 11 against the Bobcats.

Al Jefferson had 32 points and 13 rebounds for Charlotte, his ninth straight 20-point game.

Grizzlies 99, Rockets 81

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley scored 17 points and Zach Randolph had 15 points and 17 rebounds as Memphis beat Houston for the second consecutive night.

The Grizzlies won 88-87 in Houston on Friday, then took control of the rematch. Memphis held the Rockets to 38 percent shooting and built the lead to as many as 27 points before both teams sent in reserves to finish the game.

Courtney Lee also had 15 points and Kosta Koufos scored 14, hitting seven of his eight shots from the field.



Denver Nuggets small forward Wilson Chandler (21) goes up for a shot against the Indiana Pacers during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014, in Denver.

James Harden led the Rockets with 16 points. Dwight Howard had 10 points and 12 rebounds, but Houston's three-game road winning streak was snapped.

Trail blazers 115, Timberwolves 104

In Portland, Oregon, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 21 points in a showdown with Kevin Love that didn't live up to expectations, leading Portland over Minnesota.

It was the Trail Blazers' 33rd win—matching their total from all of last season.

Kevin Martin led the Timberwolves with 30 points, while Love finished with 15 points and 13 rebounds.

Aldridge hit a long jumper and drew a foul to give the Blazers a 100-88 lead midway through the fourth quarter. Damian Lillard's 3-pointer pushed the lead to 105-88 and Minnesota, coming off a back-to-back, could never catch up.

Jazz 104, Wizards 101

In Salt Lake City, Enes Kanter scored 24 points and Gordon Hayward hit two free throws with 2.6 seconds left to lift Utah past Washington.

Kanter made 11 of 13 shots and the Jazz overcame a 13-point deficit to take control in the fourth quarter and keep the Wizards from moving above the .500 mark for the first time in more than

four years.

Hayward finished with 16 points, Alec Burks added 15 and Derrick Favors had 11 points and 14 rebounds.

Trevor Ariza led Washington with 23 points, including a 3-pointer with 52 seconds left that drew the Wizards within 101-98.

John Wall banked in a 3-pointer to get within 102-101 with 3.6 seconds left, but Hayward made two free throws and Wall missed at the buzzer.

Hawks 112, Bucks 87

In Milwaukee, Paul Millsap scored 20 points to lead six teammates in double figures and key the decisive surge that helped Atlanta rebound from a 26-point home loss for the win over Milwaukee.

Millsap scored 14 points during a 24-5 run that bridged the end of the second quarter and the start of the third and put Atlanta ahead 73-47 with 8:24 left in the quarter. The margin grew to 96-64 heading into the fourth and Atlanta beat Milwaukee for the eighth time in their last nine games.

Reserve Louis Williams added 18 points for the Hawks.

Brandon Knight scored 27 points for the Bucks, who lost for the 11th time in their last 12 games. Ersan Ilyasova and Khris Middleton added 11 apiece.

Pierce, Garnett visit Celtics for 1st time as Nets

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—Paul Pierce might have trouble finding the visitors' locker room or controlling his emotions in his return to Boston.

Beating the Celtics? That should be the easy part.

Pierce and Kevin Garnett will face their former team on their old home court for the first time Sunday night since the blockbuster trade that sent them to the Brooklyn Nets on draft night.

"It's going to be a little weird," Pierce said.

The former captain spent all 15 of his previous seasons with Boston. Garnett was there for the past six. Together with Ray Allen, they led the team to its 17th NBA championship in 2008. They made it back to the finals in 2010, but lost to the Los Angeles Lakers in the seventh game.

Quite a turnaround from the four straight seasons without a playoff series victory before they teamed up.

"The emotions probably will be high just because of the success that we had," Garnett said. "We were fortunate to be part of that whole transformation and some things are forever, man, and I'm happy to say that

I'm part of that era."

A bygone era for the Celtics.

In full rebuilding mode, they have only five players who were teammates with Pierce and Garnett last season. The Celtics are 3-16 in their last 19 games.

"They're going through a lot of different changes, sort of like the change they went through when I was there before we got Kevin and before we got Ray," Pierce said. "They're still trying to find their identity."

The Nets struggled early, going 10-21. But they're 9-1 in their last 10 games with Pierce and Garnett playing important roles.

The teams met twice in the exhibition season, but Garnett sat out both games while Pierce played only the one in Brooklyn. Both played in the teams' first regular-season meeting, a Nets win in Brooklyn.

When they return to Boston, video tributes for both players are scheduled during timeouts or at the end of quarters.

Will Pierce be as emotional as former coach Doc Rivers was when he returned with his new team, the Los Angeles Clippers, following his departure from Boston after last

season?

His reaction, Pierce said, "is something you can't script."

"It's going to be a lot of emotions. You play your whole life there. You won a championship there. The first time coming to the building (as a visitor), I never thought it would happen."

Garnett was a visitor during 12 seasons with Minnesota before joining the Celtics. His intensity quickly made him a fan favorite.

"I'm sure the emotions are going to be very high and I'll react accordingly," Garnett said, "but we're there to win a game and I hope this doesn't overshadow the game. It'll be good to see (Rajon) Rondo and some other personal friends that, obviously, don't play. Other than that, it's another game that I've got to be prepared for."

Rondo was in just his second pro season when Garnett arrived and became a mentor. Now the Celtics' point guard is the new captain and came back from major knee surgery in time to play against his former teammates.

"I talk to them all the time, text," Rondo, who has played four games since returning,

said after practice Saturday. "I don't think it'll affect us at all. It's part of the process. This isn't the first time (ex-Celtics) have come back in this building."

First-year Celtics coach Brad Stevens doesn't know Garnett or Pierce. He does know what they mean to the franchise.

"Those guys did so many great things for this organization," Stevens said. "You're thankful for what they did."

They turned a struggling organization into a champion.

They were "the blueprint (for) what a professional is," Rondo said, "leading by example, just great role models."

But that's in the past.

"It's something I will never forget about," Rondo said, "but you're only credited with what you've done as of late."

For the Nets, that's been pretty impressive with their climb in the standings. Now comes a special touch, the return of Pierce and Garnett to applause from Celtics fans.

"It's going to be fun," Pierce said. "I don't know how I'll react, what emotions are going to be going through my head. Wait and see."

Woodland takes 1-shot lead; Tiger headed home

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Tiger Woods was right. The South Course at Torrey Pines is playing about as tough as it did for the U.S. Open in 2008.

But that's the only similarity. Woods won that U.S. Open. He won't even have a tee time in the final round at the Farmers Insurance Open.

Gary Woodland used power to his advantage Saturday—oddly enough, everywhere but on the par 5s—to pick up five birdies in his round of 2-under 70 that gave him a one-shot lead over Jordan Spieth and Marc Leishman going into a final day that won't include Woods.

Instead of getting back into the tournament, the defending champion and eight-time winner at Torrey Pines delivered a shocking performance. Woods went seven straight holes making bogey or worse and wound up with a 79, matching his worst score on American soil.

Woods left town without speaking to reporters and with an "MDF" next to his name, which probably should have been "OMG."

That's the PGA Tour's acronym for "made the cut, did not finish." Because more than 78 players advanced to the weekend, there was a 54-hole cut for top 70 and ties. Only one other player, club pro Michael Block, had a worse score than Woods.

"You get going south on this golf course, you can definitely put up some numbers in a hurry," Woodland said when he heard about Woods' score. "I don't think he's too concerned about it."

There's plenty for everyone to be concerned about at Torrey Pines—a beast of a course, thick rough, rock-hard greens,

and nearly two dozen players so close to the lead that Sunday could be wide open.

Woodland was at 8-under 208. It was the highest 54-hole score to lead this tournament since Dave Rummells at 4-under 212 in 1993.

Spieth had a one-shot lead to start the third round and it was gone quickly. He missed a 30-inch par putt on the opening hole and took a double bogey on No. 5. His biggest putt might have been a 6-footer for par on the 14th, and Spieth looked confident the rest of the way to salvage a 75.

Leishman had a relatively boring round of 72 on a gorgeous day along the Pacific one birdie, one bogey, 16 pars.

That might be what it takes on this monster of a course that features rough that might even make the USGA blush.

"If you let bogeys worry you on that golf course, it's going to be a pretty long day," Leishman said. "You don't have to do a whole lot wrong to have a bogey."

The average score on the South through three rounds was 74.24, compared with 74.97 during the U.S. Open. And keep in mind, the field for the Farmers Insurance Open is almost entirely PGA Tour or European Tour players.

San Diego native Pat Perez, who used to work the practice range as a teenager during this event, salvaged a 72 and was two shots behind with Morgan Hoffman (72). Ryo Ishikawa had a 69 and was in a large group at 5-under 211 that included Nicolas Colsaerts (75) and Andres Romero of Argentina, whose 67 was the best score of the day.

"When you play with Gary, who hits it 40 yards farther



Gary Woodland eyes his ball on the green of the 9th hole of the north course during the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014, in San Diego.

than I do, it doesn't look that hard," Perez said. "Where he hits it is unbelievable. But it was a lot harder today."

Twenty-two players were separated by four shots going into Sunday.

Everything was in place for

a good show except for the tour's two biggest stars. In the first network telecast of the year - and the first Sunday in golf without going against the NFL playoffs - Woods was out of the tournament and Phil Mickelson pulled out Friday night after making the cut because of muscle pain in his back.

Woodland has been heading north since winning the Reno-Tahoe Open last year. He continued after making the cut because of muscle pain in his back.

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tended at The Barclays, lost in a playoff in Malaysia and now feels confident about who's in charge at San Diego. Yes, the South is a beast. But the Kansas native hits it a long way.

Then again, he made par on all of them, including a three-putt pars on the sixth and 18th holes. That was OK, for Woodland had nothing more than a wedge in on No. 1, and he collected a pair of birdies on the par 3s. His only lapse was a double bogey on No. 17 from a bad lie in the bunker and a three-putt.

"If I drive the ball in play, I'm playing a little different golf course than most guys are playing," Woodland said.

Spieth, with a chance to move into the top 10 in the world with a win, hits the ball plenty far. He just wasn't very straight. The Texan pulled his opening tee shot and struggled to find fairways the rest of the day. He hit only five of them.

The steady finish left him confident about collecting his second PGA Tour win.

"Only one shot back and a bunched leaderboard," Spieth said. "It's going to take a good score tomorrow. ... I'm excited about tomorrow. I had some great saves down the stretch today, so take that momentum."

Woods thought he had some momentum, coming off a birdie on the 17th hole and in the fairway on the par-5 18th with a shot at the green. He went into the water and made double bogey, then made another double bogey on the first hole with a three-putt. It was his first time with back-to-back double bogeys since the 2011 PGA Championship. And it only got worse from there.

Pacquiao-Bradley rematch set for April 12

NEW YORK (AP)—Nearly two years after Timothy Bradley defeated Manny Pacquiao in a disputed split decision, promoters announced Saturday the two will fight again on April 12.

Pacquiao's loss to Bradley on June 9, 2012, broke a 15-fight winning streak during which he was recognized as one of the best pound-for-pound boxers in the world along with Floyd Mayweather.

Later that year, Juan Manuel Marquez knocked out Pacquiao, making many think that Pacquiao's age and outside-the-ring activities—he's a congressman in the Philippines, does extensive charity work and moonlights as an actor and singer—had hurt his ability to box at a high level.

In November, Pacquiao, 35, defeated Brandon Rios in a comeback fight in Macau.

Bradley, 30, defended his welterweight championship twice since beating Pacquiao:

a brutal brawl with Ruslan Provodnikov and a close decision over Marquez.

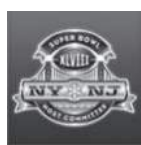
Bradley abandoned his defensive style against Provodnikov and left the ring swollen and with a concussion. Bradley said he slurred his speech for two months after the fight. Against Marquez, Bradley used his boxing skills to avoid the power that had caught Pacquiao, and won another close decision.

Promoters Bob Arum and Todd duBoef of Top Rank and Michael Koncz of MP Promotions announced the fight, which will be held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas and will be distributed by HBO Pay-Per-View.

Pacquiao is 55-5-2 with 38 knockouts. He has been lobbying for a fight with the undefeated Mayweather, but Mayweather says he will fight someone else—likely Britain's Amir Khan or Argentina's Marcos Maidana—in May.

Bradley, from Palm Springs, Calif., is 31-0 with 12 KOs.

Manning warns teammates not to let chance slip by



ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Peyton Manning is the only player in

this Super Bowl who has won the big game.

He's also lost one.

So, he knows both the elation of putting his fingerprints on the Lombardi Trophy and the anguish of watching it slip through his grasp, and he admonished his Denver Broncos teammates not to cut corners as they prepare to face the Seattle Seahawks on Feb. 2.

"I think the biggest thing he's said is eliminate distractions, making sure you're taking care of the little details, doing extra, watching film, working out, getting your body right," receiver Eric Decker said.

"And then I think the biggest thing is he says he's won one, he's lost one. And it's a complete high; it's a complete low. So, really understand to give

everything you've got because this is the last game of the year."

Tight end Jacob Tamme was also Manning's teammate in Indianapolis when the Colts lost to the Saints in the Super Bowl in 2010.

"It's an empty feeling," Tamme said. "I mean, you're certainly proud of what you did to get that far. But it's an empty feeling to get to this game and not win it. So, we're going to prepare hard and do everything we can to let it loose on Sunday and just play our best ball. That's all we can do, just play our best ball. We know we've got a stiff challenge."

Wes Welker caught 11 passes for 103 yards for New England in the Super Bowl following the 2007 season, but the Patriots' shot at perfection ended when Manning's brother, Eli, threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Plaxico Burress with 35 seconds left to give the Giants a 17-14 win.

Welker said Friday that's the lowest point of his career and the driving force in his life.

"I think it's the reason I get up in the morning in the offseason and even now," he said. "We're close again and I'm just trying to make the most of it."

Broncos cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie nearly won a ring with the 2008 Arizona Cardinals, when he had five solo tackles and broke up two passes against Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl only to watch Ben Roethlisberger's 6-yard touchdown pass to Santonio Holmes with 35 seconds left give Pittsburgh a 27-23 victory.

DRC said he's "excited, anxious, nervous, ready to get there" for his second chance at the ultimate prize.

None of the Seattle Seahawks have ever played in a Super Bowl, the first team with zero previous Super Bowl experience since the Bills lost to

No team logos on plaques for Maddux, La Russa

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—Greg Maddux and Tony La Russa will not have logos on their Hall of Fame plaques.

The decision was announced Thursday by the Hall, which said Joe Torre's plaque will have the logo of the New York Yankees.

Plaques for Tom Glavine and Bobby Cox will have Atlanta Braves logos, and Frank Thomas' will have the logo of the Chicago White Sox.

The six will be inducted during ceremonies on July 27. The managers were elected last month by the Hall's expansion-era committee and the players were chosen this month by the



In this Jan. 9, 2014, file photo, former Atlanta Braves pitchers Tom Glavine, left and Greg Maddux, right, pose with Chicago White Sox slugger Frank Thomas after a press conference in New York, announcing their election to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Of the 300 previous Hall members, 86 have caps with logos and 42 don't have caps.

Maddux began his big league career with the Chicago Cubs from 1986-92, winning the first of his four Cy Young Awards in his final season at Wrigley Field. He was with the Braves from 1993-03, winning Cy Youngs in his first three seasons in Atlanta, then returned to the Cubs from 2004-06. He also played for the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres from 2006-08.

"I feel good about it, I spent half my career in Chicago and half of my career in Atlanta," Maddux said during a news conference in Arlington, Texas. "I love both places. Obviously,

I feel like I had more success as a Brave. We did get a World Series there, but I kind of came up a Cub. For me, I couldn't pick. I really couldn't. ... So I'm going to go in neutral, I guess."

Hall President Jeff Idelson said a logo makes sense for those "whose most compelling contributions clearly took place with one team" and not having a team logo is "equally acceptable" for those whose careers were built significantly among multiple teams.

"Regardless of the selection, a Hall of Famer belong to every team for which he played or managed, as well as every fan who followed his career," Idelson said.

La Russa managed the Chicago White Sox (1979-86),

Oakland (1986-95) and St. Louis (1996-11), winning World Series titles in 1989, 2006 and 2011.

"The Chicago White Sox gave me my start in the game as a big league manager for my first eight seasons in my 33-year managerial career," La Russa said. "In Oakland, we recorded four first-place finishes in 10 years, winning three pennants and a World Series. And in St. Louis, our clubs won three pennants and two titles in 16 years. It's the totality of the success of each of those three teams that led me to Cooperstown, so I am choosing to not feature a logo so that fans of all clubs can celebrate this honor with me."

Torre managed the Yankees from 1996-07, winning Series titles in 1996 and from 1998-00. He also managed the New York Mets (1997-81), Atlanta (1982-84), St. Louis (1990-95) and the Dodgers (2008-10).

"When I became the manager of the New York Yankees, it was an opportunity to realize my lifelong dream of winning the World Series," Torre said. "We were fortunate enough to succeed in our first season in 1996, and in the years that followed, we wrote some great new chapters in Yankee history."

Decisions were relatively simple for the others.

LI NA

From Page 28

flags or giant signs painted with Chinese characters.

Her fans got her through the nervous first set, chanting, "Li Na, Let's Go," in Mandarin during every changeover.

Li opened the final by breaking Cibulkova, holding, then getting a breakpoint chance in the third game. But Cibulkova held, and then broke back in the sixth game thanks to Li's consecutive double-faults. Li broke in the 11th game and had a set point serving for the set in the 12th, but lost three straight points to ensure it went to the tiebreaker.

As Li began her roll in the second set, someone yelled—

before Cibulkova served—"C'mon Li Na, bagel her!"

She did.

A half hour later she was holding up both thumbs to the crowd, and holding back tears as she hugged her Slovakian rival at the net. She went immediately to the side of the court to shake hands with her coach Rodriguez.

The diminutive Cibulkova, one of the shortest players ever to reach a Grand Slam final at 1.61-meters (5-foot-3), had four wins over Top 20 players on her way to the final, including a fourth-round upset of third-seeded Maria Sharapova and a straight-sets semifinal trouncing of No. 5 Agnieszka Radwanska.

She had to pull the microphone down closer to her before

her post-match speech.

"These were just fantastic two weeks of my life," she said, pausing to laugh, and then cry. "Hello to everybody in Slovakia. This means a lot for our country and I'm happy I can be the one here for Slovakia."

No. 4-ranked Li, who reportedly has four-times more followers on her Chinese social networking site than there are people in Slovakia, had a good run through the tournament as other star players like Serena Williams, Sharapova and Azarenka tumbled out by the quarterfinals.

She opened with wins over the two youngest players in the tournament, then saved a match point in her third-round win over Lucie Safarova. In

the semifinals, she held off 19-year-old Canadian Eugenie Bouchard, and never had to face a player ranked in the top 20 en route to the final.

Li said it didn't matter how she got there, only that she'd finally broken through to win the title at her favorite major.

Rodriguez had to talk Li into playing Wimbledon after she told him she wanted to retire in the wake of the criticism that followed her early exit at the last French Open. He encouraged her to just to play and see how she went at the All England club before making such a big career decision. She responded by reaching the quarterfinals at Wimbledon, the semifinals at the U.S. Open and now breaking her drought in Australia.

On Saturday, she paid tribute to his calm, composed approach and support.

"Before the match he was telling me to relax, just think it's a match, don't think it's a final," she recounted, admitting that she'd even taken time out for a short afternoon sleep to help with nerves. "When he was coaching me, he always say 'believe in yourself.' He always believed in me, I never believed in myself. That was my problem."

Now she's already promising to come back and defend her Australian title.

"Finally I got her," Li said as she put a hand on the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup for the first time. "Last two times was very close."

MHS

From Page 28

12-8 lead at the end of the first frame to a 34-12 halftime advantage. The lead ballooned in the second quarter, as MHS completed its tough defense on Mt. Carmel's gunners with a balance offense from its much deeper roster. Basa used all his 12 players in the first half and only one missed making it to the scoreboard.

The Dolphins continued to kill the Knights with their even scoring, while baskets were hard to come by for the

latter. Mt. Carmel got its first basket in the second half at the 5:31 mark of the third off William Camacho's split free throw, while Del Rosario added a triple for the Knights' lone field goal in that match. Another split free throw from Min Su Kim ended the third canto, but not the Knights' miseries, as MHS took a commanding 38-17 lead.

Finally in the fourth canto, the Knights broke into double figures, drilling 10 points, as the Dolphins loosened up a bit on defense, but still waltzed their way to a big winning margin.

Kobe Mendoza top-scored

for MHS with his 14 points, while his eight other teammates added at least two baskets apiece. Alfonso Evangelista had 8 to lead Mt. Carmel, which drew a dismal 4-point production from Camacho.

Meanwhile, MHS was also victorious in the junior varsity game last Friday after downing Saipan International School, 48-39.

The Dolphins improved to a 2-0 record, while SIS dropped to a 0-3 card.

Ignacio Borja and Aaron Pamintuan teamed up in MHS JV's win, scoring 16

and 10 points, respectively, while SIS' Christopher Cepeda led all scorers with his 18 markers.

Cepeda and Johnson kept the Geckos afloat in the first period, 11-12, making 5 and 6 points, respectively, but could not get help from their teammates in the remaining three quarters, allowing MHS to widen the gap.

First Game

MHS 48 — Borja 16, Pamintuan 10, Manalili 7, Benavente 5, Edralin 3, Cristobal 3, De Guzman 2, Deocares 2.

SIS 39 — C. Cepeda 18, Johnson 8, H. Kim 6, Y. Kim 6, A. Cepeda 1.

Scoring by quarters: 12-11, 25-17, 37-23, 48-39.

Second Game

MHS 63 — Mendoza 14, Malonzo 9, Factor 8, Espinosa 6, Arciaga 6, Cayading 6, Kwon 4, Ano 4, Gabaldon 4, Capuyon 2.

MCS 27 — Evangelista 8, Del Rosario 5, Camacho 4, Kim 3, Sablan 3, Kwon 2, Amog 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-8, 34-12, 48-17, 63-27.

ROLLERS

From Page 28

ace caging is on its final phase of the elimination round and only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoffs.

Rollers 2 denied FTMP's outright entry to the playoff round after notching the 6-point win. Jaron Ano foiled FTMP's early bid, drilling Rollers 1's last 7 points. He also top-scored for Rollers 1 with 22 points, while Prince Factor and Mike Arciaga chipped in 14 and 12, respectively.

Jason Lampkin had 18 for FTMP, which needed to win only one of its last two

matches to complete the playoff cast and join Rollers 1, 2, and 3. FTMP was scheduled to face Rollers 2 last Saturday and will play Rollers 5 today. Back-to-back FTMP losses would keep Rollers 4's hopes for the fourth and last playoff ticket.

Rollers 4 failed to get the needed fourth win last weekend, as it bowed to Dream Team in the second match of the night, 50-65.

The all-female crew of Dream Team booked its second straight win after dropping its first seven matches. Madeleine Alegre towed Dream Team to its second vic-

tory after firing 24 points. She knocked in 10 points in the first half and got 9 from Kyla Ito to give Dream Team a promising 33-18 halftime lead. Dream Team never looked back from thereon, as Alegre continued to find her target, while Irish Pagarao also found his form in the second half.

In the first game, Rollers 3 was on a zone right from the get-go, doubling up Rollers 5, 34-17. Four Rollers 3 players scored at least 7 points each in the first half to gain early control of the match en route to the 18-point win.

Wilfredo Francisco, who had 11 points in the first

frame, went on to finish with 16 markers to lead Rollers 3, while Adrian De Luna and Kyle Rios contributed 14 and 10, respectively. No Rollers 5 players broke into twin digits, as the best that Henry Yu could do was make 8 markers.

First Game

Rollers 3 68 — Francisco 16, De Luna 14, Rios 10, Alipio 6, Cruz 5, Morales 5, Cudia 3, Dancoe 2, Kwon 2.

Rollers 5 46 — Yu 8, Pangelinan 6, Caracut 6, Dela Cruz 5, Tengco 4, Mamaril 3, Ogu-moro 2, Bordon 2.

Scoring by halves: 34-17, 68-46.

Second Game

Dream Team 65 — Alegre 24, Pagarao 14, Ito 11, Williams 9, Castillo 2.

Rollers 4 50 — Sagun 21, Iba 9, Wei 7, Ellama 7, Kwon 6.

Scoring by halves: 33-18, 65-50.

Third Game

Rollers 1 68 — Ano 22, Factor 14, Arciaga 12, Cayading 6, Pangelinan 4, Iglesias 3.

FTMP 62 — Lampkin 18, Montes 17, Omengkar 12, Roque 8, Aristores 6.

Scoring by halves: 34-36, 68-61.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	22	21	.512	—
Brooklyn	19	22	.463	2
New York	16	27	.372	6
Boston	15	30	.333	8
Philadelphia	14	30	.318	8 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	31	12	.721	—
Atlanta	23	20	.535	8
Washington	21	22	.488	10
Charlotte	19	27	.413	13 1/2
Orlando	12	32	.273	19 1/2

Central Division

Indiana	34	9	.791	—
Chicago	22	21	.512	12
Detroit	17	26	.395	17
Cleveland	16	27	.372	18
Milwaukee	8	35	.186	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	33	10	.767	—
Houston	29	17	.630	5 1/2
Dallas	25	20	.556	9
Memphis	22	20	.524	10 1/2
New Orleans	17	25	.405	15 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	35	10	.778	—
Portland	33	11	.750	1 1/2
Denver	21	21	.500	12 1/2
Minnesota	21	22	.488	13
Utah	15	29	.341	19 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	31	15	.674	—
Golden State	26	18	.591	4
Phoenix	24	18	.571	5
L.A. Lakers	16	28	.364	14
Sacramento	15	27	.357	14

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Little League games make headlines

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Matches in opening week of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball were last week's top stories.

In the Major division games at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, IT&E booked back-to-back wins to take the early lead in the 15-team field. Also prevailing in the opening week of the Major division were defending champions Falcons, Laolao Bay, Tanapag Braves, Hustlers, Red Sox, Comets I, and IP&E Rockies.

Over at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, the JPO Enforcers also went 2-0, while the Falcons, Jets, Fielders, and Comets split their first two matches, and the defending champions Red Sox fell to a 0-2 slate in the Junior League.

In the Senior League, the Braves, Jets, and Red Sox won their debuts, while defending champions Fielders dropped their first game, joining the Lions and the Enforcers in the loser's bracket. In the Big League,

defending champions Padres defeated last year's rival Braves.

Meanwhile, other notable events last week were the 2014 Reverse Co-Ed Grass Volleyball Tournament, Marianas Inter-scholastic Sports Organization's boys basketball and girls volleyball leagues, Tour of Guam, and the Sun Palace caging.

In the annual grass volleyball tournament, Siyasi's John Nekaifes and Chenny Lizama won against nine other pairs. They went undefeated in the double-elimination competition and clinched the championship after beating Clay McCullough-Stearns and Somia Quan in the finals, 21-17.

In the MISO basketball, MHS remained unbeaten in three games in the varsity division, while Saipan Southern High School snapped its two-game losing skid. In the freshmen division, Agape Christian School beat Southern, while the Dolphins also triumphed in the varsity match against the winless Saipan International School.

In the girls volleyball, SIS and MHS are both flawless in three



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Comets runner sprints to third base during their game against the Jets in the Junior League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Southern High School's Elnathan Wong pulls up for a shot against an Agape Christian School defender during their game in the freshmen division of the MISO caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Spectators watch Saipan International School's Phalai Frink serves during their game against Kagman High School last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Clay McCullough-Stearns soars for a spike, while teammate Somia Quan looks on during their playoff game against Gabriel White and Linda Anastacio in the NMIVA grasscourt volleyball tournament last week at the Navy Hill court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Laolao Bay outfielder throws to their pitcher during their game against the IP&E Rockies in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



RICKY CASTRO
Jerome Diyco crosses the finish line in last week's Tour of Guam.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Hula Girls Ira Palero pulls up for a jumper during their game against Tappers in the Sun Palace caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

games, while Mount Carmel School is also perfect after two games. Grace Christian Academy, MHS JV, SIS JV, and Southern have one win apiece, while Kagman's JV and varsity squads are both winless in three games.

Back to basketball, Hula Girls ruled the girls division of the Sun Palace caging after dominating Wrecking Balls in

the finals, 64-53. In the boys division, Rollers 1, 2, and 3 are in the playoffs and waiting for one more qualifier.

In the Tour De Guam, seven Saipan bikers completed the 105-kilometer race. The list includes Erico Castro, Jerome Diyco, Allen Perez, Ben Babauta, Butch Sublemente, Gerald Rangamar, and Susan Marchitti.



**Chandler, Nuggets
end 3-game skid,
beat Pacers**
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Saipan Tribune Sports



**Woodland takes
1-shot lead; Tiger
headed home**
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28 MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Li Na wins Aussie Open in 3rd trip to final



AP
Li Na of China celebrates after defeating Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia during their women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Seven months after giving retirement serious thought, Li Na made it third time lucky in an Australian Open final with a 7-6 (3), 6-0 win over Dominika Cibulkova to become the oldest women's champion here in the Open era.

Li, who turns 32 next month, lost finals to Kim Clijsters in 2011 and to Victoria Azarenka last year. In between, she won the 2011 French Open in one of the many firsts she's established for Chinese tennis. Widely popular at Melbourne Park for her funny post-match interviews and wise cracks about her husband and his snoring, Li didn't disappoint the Rod Laver Crowd in her first victory speech.

She first thanked her agent, Max, "for making me rich," her coach Carlos Rodriguez and then her husband, former coach and constant traveling companion, Shan Jiang.

She told him he was "even famous in China."

"So thanks for him give up everything just traveling with

me to be my hitting partner, fix the drinks, fix the racket. So thanks a lot, you are a nice guy," she said, pausing for the laughter. "Also you are so lucky, find me."

In both her previous finals at Melbourne Park, Li won the first set but went down in three. Against Azarenka last year, she stumbled and twisted her ankle, and needed a medical timeout in the third set after hitting her head on the court.

She had no such trouble against No. 20-seeded Cibulkova on Saturday night, racing through the second set in 27 minutes after taking the first in a tiebreaker.

Li's supporters were everywhere in the crowd, some with Chinese flags painted on their faces, others holding Chinese

See LI NA on Page 26



MHS mauls Mount Carmel School



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas High School's Kobe Mendoza goes up for a layup against Mount Carmel School's William Camacho during the second quarter of their game in the MISO varsity caging last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School clobbered Mount Carmel School, 63-27, in the varsity division of the 2013-2014 Marianas Inter-scholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Friday night at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Dolphins read well the Knights very predictable offense, holding Mt. Carmel to single-digit scoring in the first three quarters en route to the 36-point winning margin and their third win in as many games. The Knights fell to a 0-3 record, as it failed to draw a solid game from William Camacho.

Camacho was the Mt. Carmel's go-to-guy in the first two games where he averaged close to 30 points (29.5) and against

MHS, he made all the moves to buy baskets, but was frustrated by the different Dolphins defenders coach Preston Basa assigned to him. With Camacho bleeding for points, the entire Mt. Carmel offense was disarray as the Knights were either called for 24-second shot clock violations or rushed last-minutes shots on several occasions.

The Knights, who had their best showing early in the game, forcing a deadlock, 6-all, were nearly limited to 2 points in the entire second quarter if not for Enrico Del Rosario, who stole the ball from MHS in the closing seconds and sprinted to their front court for a buzzer-beating layup.

With Mt. Carmel making only 4 points in the second canto, the Dolphins turned a close

See MHS on Page 26



Rollers 1, 3, keep grips to Top 2 spots



Rollers 3 player runs into two Dream Team defenders during the first half of their game in the Sun Palace caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rollers 1 and 3 tightened their hold to the Top 2 spots in the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament after beating separate opponents last

Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Rollers 1 played in the nightcap and edged FTMP, 68-62, while Rollers 1 saw action in the first game and routed Rollers 5, 68-46. With their wins, Rollers 1 and 3 moved up to 9-1 and 8 records, respectively, and remained ahead of Rollers 2 (7-3), FTMP (5-5), Rollers 4 (3-7), Dream Team (2-7), and Rollers 5 (0-10), pending results of last Saturday's matches. The boys division contest of the Sun Palace

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